

2

春日みかげ

イラストみやま零

織田信奈の野望





「わわわわたし、昔からいぢめられ癖があつて……
わたし、おめん子なんです」

柴田勝家

蜂須賀五右衛門

丹羽長秀

前田大千代



WARNING: This chapter has been translated from the Chinese edition of the novels, which are known to have some minor mistakes compared to the original Japanese text. If you have access to the originals and you spot an error, please feel free to make the corrections yourself - this is a Wiki which means it's meant for anyone to fix things (and if you screw up, we can revert back your changes if all deem necessary). We can see the corrections you make, so just go ahead instead of hiding or waiting for permission.

Chapter 1: Nobuna being asked for marriage!

The era is Sengoku. The location is the province of Owari, in the town surrounding Kiyosu castle.

The princess ruling over the province of Owari, Oda Nobuna, was called a fool and laughed at by the world.

But this foolish way of hers, was it in order to catch the enemy off guard, or was she some genius tragically misunderstood by the current era? The renowned Battle of Okehazama in which Imagawa Yoshimoto, who was called [Tokaido's No. 1], began her unparalleled attack with herself as well as an army 10 times larger than Oda Nobuna's.

In the end, she was defeated under the lead of Shibata Katsuie and Nobuna's ministers. The one who defeated the confident Imagawa Yoshimoto was no other than Owari's stupid princess Oda Nobuna.

Now, as if Oda Nobuna is planning something, she is being very mean. After the battle of Okehazama, not even a little improvement in life can be seen to Oda's ministers. Being the modern Japanese high school student, yet who mysteriously appeared in this dangerous sengoku era, Sagara Yoshiharu, who had discovered Imagawa's base and thus contributed greatly to the victory of that battle, is now still leading the miserable life of one vegetable soup per meal.

Currently, it is the middle of summer.

Even though it was barely dawn, Yoshiharu was lying wide awake on his threadbare futon, soaked with his nighttime sweat.

Once full of confidence to sleep through anything, Sagara who is at least planning to lie in bed some more, can only admit defeat. His back is full of sweat, and it is somehow warm too. So, he unwillingly opened his eyes while muttering "So hot, don't they have Air Conditioning here?"

"Fu, fu fu"

Upon opening his eyes, one can see his ninja subordinate, Hachisuka Goemon hugging the pillar while sleeping on the roof's beam. Goemon might be a loli ninja, but she leads the fierce Kawanamishuu. Besides that, she has the habit of biting her tongue after 30 syllables.

No matter what, she is still Sagara's subordinate. But no matter how he persuades her to sleep on the tatami, she refuses and says that the roof is enough for her. Failing to let her listen to his words is worrying for Sagara as she might say, will sleep in the ground tonight and bury herself using her ninja skills.

In the end, Sagara gave up persuading her, and let her sleep on the roof, but...

Seeing her sleeping posture, Sagara becomes worried if she might fall down from the roof. But there is a culprit more troublesome who disturbs Sagara's slumber. After the Battle of Okehazama, the reward of Nobuna to Sagara is the little girl, Nene. Though being just 8 years old, she already has a sharp tongue.

Because of Sagara's wish to be affectionate with a pretty girl, Nene was given to him as a god-sister. And Nene even swore that she will shoulder the responsibility of not letting Sagara touch any girls.

"Nobuna you bastard, how much do you hate me?" Sagara often grumbled. In reply, Nene said "I will definitely change this habit of chasing after girls, Onii-sama and follow him around all the time."

Noticing the different between modern Japan and the sengoku era, Sagara initially planned that "Since I'm living alone, I should get some girls to have fun." But the current situation makes any possible chance hopeless. Though, when she is sleeping, she is still very cute.

"...I finally know why it's so hot. Nene, don't stick so close to my back." Children's body temperatures are really high. During Sagara's sleep, Nene wrapped her hands around his neck and hug his back while still half asleep, because of this, Sagara's temperature had also risen more than 100 percent.

".....fu, fu fu. Onii-sama, don't go chasing girls around..." Even in sleep, she is still blocking Sagara's only interest.

"Oi, its hot, let go."

"Fu, fu, fu"

"I.....I can't get out."

And Sagara's back is already very wet.

"Is it sweat, but why is it a bit warm?"

"No matter how Nene sticks to me, I don't have so much sweat to sweat it out"

....

Sagara noticed.

Ah?

Don't tell me, this...

isn't.....sweat?!

No...

"Oi, Nene, did you wet your bed? And you even urinated on my back?!"

"Hmmm?"



The one sticking to Sagara's back, Nene, finally opened her eyes.

"..... Uuuuuu.. Eh?..."

While still drowsy, she used her little hand to rub her eyes.

"Stop uuuuu-ing! Did you mistake my back with the toilet? Oioi, why is it still coming?"

".....Uuuuu...."

"Listen, Nene, you are already 8 years old. It's time for you to change your habit of wetting beds. It would be strange if you do not wet your bed after shouting 'So hot, so hot' and drinking so much water before you slept last night! As your brother, I will have to teach you properly today!"

"....uuuu... uuuu"

"Eh? What word starts with uuu? Sagara tilt his head, not understanding.

".....UuuuuuAhhhhhhhhh~~" Nene started crying!

The soundwaves start hitting Sagara's eardrum!

".....UuuuuuWahhhhhhhhhh~~"

"Wa...What? What is this sound-wave weapon?!"

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh~~"

"Ahhh, Nene, I'm wrong! Sorry! I've said too much!"

"....how can I sleep with this noise, Sagara-shi." Goemon stared at Sagara while opening her eyes.

Rumors say that since Ninjas need no sleep for a few days and nights, they are so deep in sleep like a corpse when they are resting. Once they decided to sleep, before their sleeping time is up, they won't wake up even if you fire a cannon beside their bed or knock the gong.

As the current loli ninja covered her ears and screamed "Noisy!" it can be seen that Nene's cries' decibel is already very horrible.

"Uwahhhh~Onii-sama is mad!!"

"I'm wrong! Nene, I beg you not to cry anymore. Come come, wipe your nose! If your face is full of snot, won't the reputation of number one small beauty of Owari go down!?"

"Reputation... go down....? Uwahhhhhhh~"

"Uhhh~! How can you calm down!?"

"A slash at the neck using this ninja's dagger will be ok"

"She will die if you do that! Ahh, compared to this, I should take my futon and dry it outside"

"Ah, you wanna run from this, Sagara-shi?"

"I leave the rest to you, Goemon!"

"I I I I I'm not used to handling kids! Shaghara(Sagara)-shi is too bad!"

Goemon bit her tongue! - Though this is not the time to play the straight man^[1].

Not wasting a single second, I have to run away from the area of Nene's sound-wave attack.

Free~dom!

Sagara hastily run to the courtyard with the futon, but the courtyard already has his neighbour Inuchiyo standing there.

".....Day after day, so noisy....."

Wearing pajamas and holding her usual bamboo spear, her attire is so messy that one can almost see her chest area.

Though her breasts are still like a small flower bud waiting to bloom, the leader of the Maeda clan, Maeda Inuchiyo is already a beautiful young girl. Though still saying humbly that Inuchiyo is still young, but if she goes out to Japan's Akihabara like this, the otakus will definitely be so happy that they will dance on the spot.

Sagara uncontrollably started to stare at Inuchiyo, his consciousness only returned after a while.

"Oi, Inuchiyo? What's with your attire! Wear your clothes properly!"

".....Shirking responsibility. You are the one who did this."

"Huh? What?"

Inuchiyo is sleepwalking! And coincidentally, because she was awoken halfway during her sleep, her brain is still left with fragments of Sagara lusting over her. From the looks of it, her anger meter seems to be at the MAX!

".....Properly.....take responsibility."

The bamboo spear in her hands coldly stab towards Sagara.

"Inuchiyo-san?! Please wake up!!!"

Dodging left and right, Sagara thinks to himself,

"Oda family are all a handful bunch of people."

After such a noisy morning, Sagara and Inuchiyo head to Aoshuu.

Last night, Nobuna ordered the both of them that there will be a guest coming today, so they are to buy some delicious Uiroumochi, Hatcho Miso and thick soy sauce. An Owari specialty, the Uiroumochi is used to reward Nobuna's brother Nobukatsu and her ministers. It isn't too sweet upon eating, and the aftertaste is fresh, Sagara developed quite a liking to it too.

But....

"Hatcho Miso and thick soy sauce.....huh?"

Walking together with Inuchiyo on the streets of Aoshuu, Sagara start muttering to himself. Beside him, while eating happily Uiroumochi(Tea flavour), Inuchiyo asked, "Both of them are delicious. Sagara, you don't like them?"

"Rather then not liking it, the flavour is too thick."

Hatcho Miso is Mikawa's Okazaki Hatcho village's specialty, from the outside, its red in colour. As for the taste, it's not as sweet compared to Sagara's favourite rice miso, and its rather bitter at the start.

But for reasons unknown, the people of Owari love this flavour. Shibata Katsuie will even gluttonously put this hatcho miso on top of her shaved ice during summer, while eating it in high spirits. Once Sagara carelessly but honestly said "Wa, miso-flavoured shaved ice feels very disgusting." In the end, Katsuie almost broke his back in anger.

As for the Soy sauce, it is an extremely heavy flavoured sauce that has gained much popularity in Owari nowadays. Sometimes, Sagara will dip a bit of it while eating sashimi, but Katsuie will just put this on top of her shaved ice and etc etc.

In conclusion, the dining tables of Owari, 70% of them will have the hatcho miso, and the rest of it will be the soy sauce. While living in Aoshuu, Sagara often thought "Why do all of them like such a thick flavour?" helplessly. But from the situation, it seems that they have not yet discovered a way to lighten the sauces during this era.

"I recommend this shop, fresh and cheap, and the flavour is thick too."

Inuchiyo bring Sagara to a shop called Sukagi-ya. (醋鍵屋)

Inside the shop is full of the different types of miso and sauces, but outside, there is a bunch of snacks and steaming hot noodles. Add this to the current trend, "Drinking tea" this shop have the additional use as a teashop, it's actually quite a unique shop.

"It's good if its fresh and cheap, but isn't the flavour abit too thick? I still think lighter..."

"Shut up and buy it." Sagara's face was pinched and was dragged over.

Inuchiyo, though her body is small, has strong hands.

"I know I know.....! But, I seem to have heard of this shop before."

"There's a lot of Sukagi-yas around in Owari. All the products are cheap and fresh, and the flavour is think too, it has become a gathering place for young girls."

"I get it, using the words of my era, this seems like a gathering spot for high school girls."

Inuchiyo stare intently at the shopkeeper, all the while maintaining asilence, this made the shopkeeper cry and they got a good price. Because of this, after buying the stuff they wanted, they still had a bit of money left.

"Since there is still time, why don't we get some Uiroumochi before going back?"

".....Sagara wants to flirt with girls."

"Okok. White, black, tea, red bean, sakura. I will treat you to all 5 colours of Uiroumochi!"

"....Uhhh, I can't reject...."

"All 5 flavours of Uiroumochi at one time! Inuchiyo let out a pant "ha ha" not unlike a dog while thinking of it breathlessly.

The two of them sat at a corner of the teashop, eating Uiroumochi and looking at the people walking through the streets. After Nobuna defeated the enemy of the North, Imagawa Yoshimoto, the city of Aoshuu let out a breath of relief, and is beginning to be bustling again. Since the nemesis of Owari, Imagawa, is gone, the expressions of the pedestrians seem to be more relaxed.

"As expected, peace seems to be the most important thing in the sengoku era. Sagara realized this. If Nobuna is able to unite the world, the war-ridden Japan will also stop their fights and the whole country can be as peaceful as this city.

"Not bad, not bad. There is quite an amount of young and energetic girls."

"...Sagara, there is one too, at the side."

"Eh? Inuchiyo can be considered energetic too?"

"...Can be.... I think."

"Oh? That bunch of people is..."

From where Sagara is pointing, one can see a bunch of warriors. The black hair guy sitting on the horse should be the swordsman, and those young warriors surrounding him should be his men.

Though the looks of his men had already captured the attention of the city girls, but one can see that the swordsman's look far surpass that of his men. Sorrowful eyes, long eyelashes, fair skin, these features bring a sense of dignity. Hikaru Genji^[2] must have be like this when he was young too.

The city's girls have already surrounded the group, all the while shrieking with delight. Because of this, Sagara's existence hasn't been noticed at all.

Well, even if he was noticed, they will say "Hey, there's a monkey!" or "Nobuna-sama's monkey escaped to the streets" or "Don't get seduced by the Uiroumochi!" and raise a small ruckus at best.

"Che, that guy who is riding on the white horse seem to have the looks of a gigolo. Even a male like me thinks that his looks are quite good."

"...Pond Noodles^[3]. The noodles here are flat."

"He seems to be clever too, he should be much more popular than Nobukatsu. Damn, this admiration of mine pisses me off."

"...flat noodles."

But, the flags of this group of warriors were not seen in Owari before.

Three flower petals on three tortoise shells.

Sagara and Inuchiyo listen hard, eavesdropping on the conversation of that gigolo swordsman and his men.

"Master, I heard that the idiotic princess of Owari often walks on the streets with a monkey face.

"If she saw this cute face of master, she might discover her girly side."

Such cold conversation, this young swordsman seems to have no interest in Nobuna as a man.

"At the charm of master, the monkeys of Owari will only submit to us."

"To think that you have to marry such an idiotic princess, master is so pitiful."

"Political marriages are a common thing in this sengoku era, there is no need to let all the girls love you."

"Master, all the girls will cry if they know you are doing this. To abandon so many girls, there might be some who might even consider suicide."

"Girls who think they can do anything in this sengoku era are pathetic, they are all only chess pieces."

"Damn ! Those people really pisses me off!" Sagara cannot help but scold those people.

"It's ok if you treat Nobuna like a monkey, but I can't forgive anyone who treats girls as playthings! It has nothing to do with treating Nobuna like an idiot!"

Squinting her eyes while looking at the flag of these people who walk past, Inuchiyo lowered her voice and said "This pattern, Three flower petals on 3 tortoise shells, they are not part of Nobuna's army."

"Don't tell me they are the guests that Nobuna is entertaining? Arrogant people like this? "

"...I don't think so. Since we are buying so much hatcho miso, the one who is coming should be the bespectacled tanuki."

"Bespectacled tanuki?"

The bespectacled tanuki is referring to Mikawa, Okazaki city's Motoyasu Matsudaira. Her purpose is to sign a peace treaty with Nobuna. Motoyasu Matsudaira, the one who will eventually change her name to Tokugawa Ieyasu. A tragic princess daimyo who had to bury her ambitions deep inside her heart, her province is trapped right in the middle by Owari's Oda clan and Imagawa Yoshimoto.

When she was young, she was once kidnapped to Imagawa clan as a hostage, and was later taken to Owari by Oda Nobuhide, Nobuna's father. In the end, she was used as a trading chip and sold back to Imagawa, her early tragic life can be said to be treated like a ball being kicked around. Because of the battle of Okehazama, the once lackey of Imagawa Yoshimoto, who received news that Imagawa Yoshimoto has been defeated, hastily retreated her army to Okazaki city and proclaim independence from Imagawa.

Because of this, Imagawa's army which was defeated right in the middle of Owari and Mikawa and unable to retreat was dispersed away. Imagawa who has lost both the head of the family and her army, was destroyed by Takeda Shingen soon after.

Motoyasu always wears tanuki ears and tail accessories due to the belief that her family worship tanukis as a tradition, but from the looks of it, one can criticize that her characteristic can be totally seen just by her attire. Oh and by the way, she is also very near-sighted, and always wears spectacles imported from overseas. What a messed up princess daimyo.

Noon, at Aoshuu's grand hall, seats Owari's master Oda Nobuna, Mikawa's Motoyasu Matsudaira, Maeda Inuchiyo and Sagara Yoshiharu. After defeating Imagawa Yoshimoto, Oda Nobuna seemed to be in a very good mood, and appeared stylishly with her yukata half opened, her waist strapped with her flask, hanging down her shoulder is a Arquebus.

After meeting with Saitou Dousan, it has been a long time since he had seen her in her beautiful princess look, Sagara couldn't help but feel down. "Whatever looks No....Nobuna had has no....nothing to do with at all." This kind of tsundere line Sagara can only bury deep in his heart.

Acting like she did not see anything, Nobuna pats Motoyasu on the shoulder and said "it's been quite some time, Takechiyo!" Motoyasu Matsudaira whose childhood name is "Takechiyo" has been buddies with Nobuna since they were children.

Nobuna, who is in a very good mood, greets Motoyasu while eating her specially made chicken wing.

Just to mention, Nobuna was once not satisfied that her chicken wing was not big enough, so she ordered a change to the chicken variety. Now the chicken wing in her hands is as big as that of a turkey. "Rather to say it is a chicken wing, I will call it a cow's hoof." Sagara can't help but feel alarmed.

If Nobuna's advisor, Niwa Nagahide is around, she will definitely say "Wear proper attire when signing a peace treaty. This kind of sloppy attire is too easygoing, 8 points."

"Yeah~Hehe~ It's been a while, Kichi-nee-san~"

While eating Uiroumochi smeared full with hatcho miso, Motoyasu smiles and lowers her head to Nobuna. But for some reason, her voice seems to be trembling a bit, her squirrel accessories on top of her head are vibrating too. Sagara's eyes detected this kind of small movement from her.

"Inuchiyo, why is Motoyasu trembling like that?"

"...When the bespectacled Tanuki was imprisoned in Owari, she was bullied *cough* *cough* loved everyday by the young Nobuna-sama"

"Last time, once Nobuna-sama catch the bespectacled tanuki, she will show "Nowhere to run, tanuki demon!! I will use you for teppanyaki!" and then she will tie the bespectacled tanuki on top of the tree and raise a fire

beneath her." While saying that, Inuchiyo's expression start to have a little bit of fear mix into it.

"So messed up, this will become a big issue if she does it in my world "

"Giving animal names to her beloved subordinates, this is the way Nobuna-sama shows her love." Inuchiyo muttered.

"So in conclusion, after being captured by Oda, Motoyasu became Nobuna's lackey. What a miserable and pitiful childhood."

"...Most likely her body still remembers the horror of that time. So, do not offend our master."

Sagara pitied Motoyasu from the bottom of his heart.

"Takechiyo, let me introduce you to my trusted aide and my monkey. This cute little girl over there that looks like a puppy is Maeda Inuchiyo, the one who looks disgusting, perverted face, no manners and always so full of himself is a monkey who calls himself [Sagara Yoshiharu]. Though his brain seems to be banged by some stuff as he always thinks of himself as a human, don't be shy and call him Saru!"



"Really? I'm Matsudaira Motoyasu. Childhood name Takechiyo. Please take care of me."

Just for an instant, Motoyasu's eyes seem to be flickering, like she had something to hide. Sagara did not really mind it, and lowers his head after saying hello.

After appearing in the sengoku era from modern Japan, Sagara was right in the middle of the battle between Oda and Imagawa's armies. During that time, he was almost beheaded by Motoyasu under Imagawa Yoshimoto's orders. But Sagara during that time was only a vagrant, after so long, Motoyasu seems to have forgotten about it. It might also have been that Motoyasu noticed this point, but as to not let the atmosphere become awkward, she might have pretended to forget about it.

After him, Inuchiyo lightly lowered her head too.

"...Maeda, Inuchiyo."

"I still remember about Inuchiyo-san. Every time I was tied up by Kichi-nee-san and grilled, you were always the one who kicked me to the river and saved my life."

"Since you are saving her, why can't you use a more normal method?" Sagara thinks.

"Due to Kichi-nee-san, Mikawa is finally independent. From here on, I would like to form an alliance with Owari, and have an everlasting friendship with Kichi-nee-san. ~Actually I was too afraid to say no~"

Even though it's independent now, Mikawa cannot change the fact that she is a small country. And the east side of Mikawa resides the now mighty Takeda Shingen forces. Takeda Shingen and Uesugi Kenshin, both of them can be called the strongest generals in sengoku era.

The only one with guts and ability to challenge those strong knights of Takeda, other than the mighty Uesugi Kenshin, there is no one else. Obviously, to Takeda Shingen, Mikawa's Matsudaira Motoyasu is at most Imagawa's lackey. It's not a problem if they submit to the Takeda's, but there is absolutely no chance of an equal alliance. That's why from Motoyasu's point of view, other than forming an alliance with Nobuna, there is no other way to protect Mikawa's independence and safety.

Once considering Nobuna's ambition to conquer the world, after forming an alliance with Mikawa, she can use it as a shield against Takeda. After conquering Mino, she can continue westward all the way to Kyo. But Mino is also not just any other province, that's why Nobuna has no more energy to guard against the east side.

And,

If Mikawa is part of ours, the Owari people's favourite Hatcho Miso will also be very cheap and very easy to get. Since both of them are childhood friends, their relationship isn't too bad, plus both of them are now daimyos, their situations are actually quite similar.

Of course, in the end, both of them are still a country's king. There will definitely be places where they can't agree together.

"Takechiyo, it's ok for me to give you the whole of Mikawa. But can you give me the village of hatcho?"

"Ki....Kichi-nee-san, if we don't have hatcho miso, then Mikawa's specialty, Hatcho Miso will be gone. Mikawa's finance can only rely on it now!"

"That's why you should just give it to me."

"Exactly how can one come up with such a conclusion, Nobuna this brat is so thick-skinned." Sagara whispers to Inuchiyo's ears.

"Oooooonly this, only hatcho miso is not negotiable! If we don't have hatcho miso, my ministers will rebel!"

".....Ok, I got. But, for Owari's merchant to be able to buy cheap hatcho miso, from now onwards, there will be no hatcho miso tax between Owari and Mikawa, not one cent!"

Hatcho miso's tax is waived, from now on Owari can get even cheaper hatcho miso.

"Ok, if Kichi-nee-san can give up on hatcho village."

Though this negotiation seems very hooligan-like, but as a result, Hatcho Miso will be cheaper!

Nobuna seems very satisfied about the end result. No matter what, the people of Owari's love for hatcho miso has almost reached a crazy level,

you can see that from Katsue. With this, the armies' ration expenses will also be reduced.

And hence....

Mikawa and Owari redrew their boundary lines, the east side will be given to Motoyasu and the west side to Nobuna, the alliance was formed immediately. While happily munching away her huge chicken wing, she smiled and said "It's finally time."

Nobuna's eyes glittered, and shout proudly "Oi, didn't you hear what I said, idiotic monkey? The stuff you can leave it to Inuchiyo, now we are to march towards Mino, and then towards Kyo! With this, I can finally take one step towards my ambition of world conquest."

"No matter how you smile so brightly to me I won't feel that you are cute at all!" Sagara can't help but say it in his heart.

"Wait wait, there isn't any tanuki in the story of "Momotaro banishing demons". There should only be dog, monkey and pheasant, isn't it?"

"Shut up, aren't pheasants and tanukis the same?"

Nobuna closed her small pink lips, and stared at Sagara.

"This kind of grumbly princess-sama is also cute." But Sagara rejected Inuchiyo's comment.

Sagara said before, Nobuna is someone with "My stuff are mine, my subordinate's stuff are also mine." , such a self centered mindset.

"By the way, why are you as a minister always giving me this kind of attitude? Why are you always spoiling my mood?"

"You dare to even ask, give me a justifiable reward. Who do you think is the main contributor towards the victory at Okehazama? Hurry and give me Owari's number one beauty!"

"Huh? The number one beauty is right in front of you. For what reason and duty must I introduce you to another family's daughter?"

"Shut up. Only that face of yours is OK! My criteria of a beauty are very strict. Looks alone can't do anything, someone with no inner beauty is just fail!"

"Ara, I'm not someone with just a pretty face, when I strip its also quite spectacular. If you don't believe, why don't you just take a look yourself?"

Part of her beautiful chest was revealed a little bit for just an instant, though it's just a little bit.

[*Cough* *Cough* *Cough*] Sagara can't help but be alarmed at such a sudden movement.

Obviously she won't really take off her bra, and this time Nobuna points at Sagara and laughs uncontrollably. "Hahahahaha! You idiot, just a small joke and your face is all red! You can't really expect me to strip for you to see! Big idiot! So stupid that I'm thinking of beheading you! Ahahahaha!"

"Sh...Sh...Shut up! You are not little anymore! stop these kinds of dangerous jokes. Don't you feel embarrassed?!"

"Ya right, if my naked body is shown to others, it is correct that I will be embarrassed. But what is so embarrassing about showing my body to a monkey? In the end it's another species."

"Ah, is that so, then show it to me then! Take off your bra right now! And now that I think of it, why does someone in the sengoku era wear such a bra-like cloth? Isn't it strange?"

"Oioioioi, wait, what are you trying to do! You id...id...idiotic monkey, what's with your fingers!? Know your place!"

"Shut up!! If not for your instructions, Nene will not be around me 24 hours of the day and causing me to not find any girlfriend, you've made me desperate already!!"

"Sto-Stop! What? Have you really turned into a monkey!?"

"Yeah, that's right! I'm a monkey! Because I've not been near girls for too long, that's why I turned into a monkey! *Monkey noises*

"Ahhhh!? Inuchiyo!!"

"...Sagara, control yourself."

[*Pinch*]

Not sure if it's too embarrassing, or because of the beautiful chest of Nobuna making him lose control, but Sagara actually attacked his own

master. But due to Inuchiyo's pinch to his cheeks, and Sagara's *OUCH!!!!!!*, Sagara finally returned to his senses.

After returning to his senses, all Sagara could see is Nobuna boiling with anger kicking his head using all her strength.

"You....this.....idiotic.....monkey~!! I will definitely finish you off today, see if you still dare to offend your superiors!"

"Wait.....Wait! Don't raise your legs too high, I can see everything!"

"Ah~! Where are you looking at, you idiotic monkey, haven't you learned your lesson! You pervert, you eromaniac monkey!"

"Didn't I tell you to stop!?"

The alliance meeting was thrown aside temporary, and the hall starts the play of the battle between the master and her servant. Motoyasu is totally being thrown aside.

"Er, you two, don't tell me it's like this all along?" She asked Inuchiyo timidly.

".....yes. Not even the gods can stop this quarrel, a specialty of Aoshuu."

"Such a remarkable display of courage, Saru-kun. To offend Kichi-nee-san to that degree, and still have his head on."

"...just playing only. Good relationship."

"I can't belittle this man. ~Sagara Yoshiharu~"

Matsudaira Motoyasu deeply engraves Sagara Yoshiharu into her head.

Just when the alliance between these two childhood friends with good relationship (In fact, its actually more of a master and her pet tanuki relationship) is going on smoothly, someone unexpected arrived at the gates of Aoshuu.

To ask who the hell he is, he is actually the gentleman who attracts all the girls with his style but disgusting face. To Nobuna, this kind of uninvited guest is actually quite rare. The aides hastily run in and report the name of the guest.

"Invite him in immediately"

Nobuna's big eyes glittered, and her heart trembles greatly.

The greatness of the tremor makes Nobuna even forgot about the other three people in the hall. Inuchiyo, Sagara and Motoyasu retreat to a corner to allow the new guest to come in.

After a while, this uninvited guest appears in the great hall.

In this sengoku world, Sagara's position can be considered quite high already, but this person before him is even higher. With long and smooth black hair, long eyelashes not losing to a girl, and snow white skin, this young warrior is handsome to a somewhat mysterious degree.

With a pretty face that makes people easily mistaken him for a real beauty, this handsome man even let Motoyasu and Inuchiyo this pair of animals let out "Oh oh" cheers.

But, Sagara can never forget how this man and his subordinates treated Nobuna with such an easy attitude.

"Who are you?"

The urge to ask uncontrollably blurt out.

"This is too rude of me. My name is Asai Nagamasa, traveled all the way from Odani Castle."

Using a soft tone, the black hair swordsman introduced himself gracefully.

"Because I want to have a meeting with Oda Nobuna-sama, it is for this reason I anonymously come to Owari and visit Aoshuu, please do forgive my intrusion."

With a dignified look and beautiful actions, no doubt he is a daimyo from Kinai. It is as if he wanted to portray himself as a handsome prince with his graceful gestures, not knowing why, Sagara felt a bit anxious.

"Damn....This kind of confident attitude. It's like he is showing his status to others purposely."

"Gosh, be silent, monkey. Asai Nagamasa isn't a daimyo who just controls Kitaomi, he is also someone who I want to include in my alliance in the future.

"Oh, so that's it.... huh?"

Asai Nagamasa.

According to Sagara's sengoku game knowledge, Asai Nagamasa controls the region of kansai(The northern part of Omi), in other words, a big province. Sagara remembered that the reason Oda Nobunaga is able to advance towards Kyo after obtaining Mino is precisely because of the alliance with Asai Nagamasa. The need to do that is because Kansai is a region that Nobuna have to pass when advancing from Mino to Kyo.

But, Sagara, after using all his brain juice to remember (Asai Nagamasa, isn't he the one that Oda Nobunaga killed in the end?) start to be more and more suspicious towards this gigolo swordsman who is smiling so confidently in front of him.

Though it's just a coincidence, but at the town's teashop, Nagamasa's opinion on Nobuna is like this

"Girls who think they can do anything in this sengoku era are pathetic; they are all chess pieces only."

The dignified gentlemen right in front of him was able to say such a thing, if not for Sagara listening to it on the spot, there is no way he could believe it.

"Basically, this guy in front has other plans in his heart. Compared to Motoyasu who is like a tanuki but respects Nobuna from her heart, this guy is just using Nobuna as a stepping stone."

"From this train of thought, it's better not to let Nobuna have too many dealings with this guy." Sagara thinks to himself. Half of it was actually worrying for Nobuna, the other is because of some unknown anger at Nagamasa.

"Why are you in such a daze, idiotic monkey? Because of this, we can attack Mino peacefully now. At least show that you are happy a bit."

"I see. Omi and Mino are countries linked together, you mean the final pheasant from the banish of Mino's demons has also appeared too?"

"Yes, that's what I mean."

"Nobuna-sama, i'm not a pheasant." Asai Nagamasa said lightly with a hint of sourness.

After that, while pressing his hand to his chest and with a gentle tone, he exclaims,

"My childhood name is Saruyashamaru. If Nobuna likes it, you can feel free and call me Saru(monkey)"

Sagara stood up in rage, and protested to Asai Nagamasa.

"Wait just a minute! Your character overlaps mine! I'm the monkey!"

Even though the times when Nobuna called him Monkey, he will always say that I'm a human! but once there is an imposter, Sagara is now emphasizing that he is the monkey.

"Such an interesting man. I did not use any Rosewood (Rosewood sounds the same as char(???). The perfume on my body today is sandalwood."

"Ah, Nagamasa-sama, please do not mind this active monkey. If you follow in his steps, you will become stupid too."

"I understand."

"What about the sandal wood, this bastard pisses me off." Sagara stare at him fiercely.

But Nagamasa just laughs, turn his head away from Sagara and did not care about him anymore.

"So, what brings you here today? Since you are here in Aoshuu personally, I guess it must be something important?"

"Exactly. Since currently, there is no more threat from Imagawa Yoshimoto, Nobuna getting ready to attack your god-father Saitou Dousan's Gifu Castle is already pretty well known.

"Of course."

"After that, you will be proceeding to the capital, I suppose?"

"Correct, after capturing Mino, I will go to the capital, and obtain the power to rule Japan. I have no wish to hide my ambitions now that I have come so far."

Nagamasa laughs lightly.

Don't tell me this bastard even farts gracefully? Sagara is getting more and more pissed off, thinking how good it will be if I can kill him just through my stare.

"This man is currently releasing his charm towards Nobuna-sama."
Inuchiyo muttered.

"Such a brave princess. Because of this, it must be fate that I who control Kitaomi should form an alliance with you."

"Ara, I might even attack Omi?"

"Not counting in the Sasaki clan, we the Asai clan has the fortress, Odani castle, my father Hisamasa who has just given me the daimyo position is still alive, my ministers are united and armies strong. If Nobuna-sama really decides to be our enemy, i'm afraid your plan of going to the capitol might be delayed. And, if I changed my mind and seek an alliance with Mino, Saitou Yoshitatsu, no one will know the odds of Nobuna-sama obtaining Mino. That's why, I think Nobuna-sama should accept this offer of alliance.

"Hehehe." Nobuna smiled.

The smart Nobuna often likes people who are as smart as her, because that will get rid of lots of explaining time and effort.

"Like what you said, that's what I planned too. The Asai clan and the southern Sasaki clan has been in loggerheads for very long, and I remember you had been captured by the Sasaki clan while you were young before. As part of the alliance, I believe you will need my strength to defeat them?"

"Yes, absolutely correct. That's why I have visited Aoshuu personally."

"Damn, why do the two of them seem to talk so happily? Though I don't know why but it just pisses me off." Sagara grumbles.

"I see. Nagamasa, you being here specifically, it seems like you are agree-able to this alliance too?"

"Actually my father, Hisamasa preferred to maintain good relationship with our old time allies, the Asakura clan. But, my father lacks the guts to face the Sasaki clan, the enemy who has snatched away Omi from us."

"Hmmm, Nagamasa-sama seems to have a bad father."

"As the previous daimyo, Asai Hisamasa has always been the aide of the Sasaki clan. After being a hostage for years under Sasaki clan and inherit the daimyo title, they have relied on their own strength and broke away from the Sasaki clan and declared independence." Inuchiyo explained this to Sagara who did not know of the truth.

"And the current head is me, Saruyashamaru. As someone ambitious, it does not suit me to do nothing of value in my youth. Rather than currying favor with the old famous houses, I should fight along with ambitious heroes, that's what I think."

"So as to say, you are willing to lend me a hand in conquering the world? Just like Takechiyo over there?"

Nagamasa blinked and said "Petty lies won't work towards you. So I will just say it straight, I do not want to help with your ambitions."

"Oh, so what do you mean?"

"Obtaining the world with you, that's my motive in coming here."

"Isn't it the same?"

"Nope. What i'm saying is, we will aim for the world "Together". Nobuna-sama, please marry me!"

"Oh!!!!!"

Nobuna and Sagara almost immediately spit the tea in their mouths on each other. Even the color on the face of Nobuna shows that she is in confusion. Being proposed to, this is the first time in her life.

Meaning to stand up, but thinking if that's abit too rude, Nobuna sat down quietly and put her hand into her yukata's sleeve, hiding her bra from sight.

"Ma...Ma...Ma...Ma...Ma...Marry you? So as to say, this is a proposal?"

"Yes, that's it. Let us become the representative of beautiful couple from Owari and Omi. Add that to both our ambition to conquer the world, I dare say there is no other more suitable couple then us in the world. "

"Su...Su...Su...Suddenly saying th...th...th...this type of thing, I...I...I will be troubled!"

Stealing a glance at Sagara's reaction who is letting out a howl of lament, Nobuna traces circles on the tatami mat. As for Inuchiyo and Motoyasu, there were whispers of "...This is bad..." "Gave me quite a scare".

"So...So...So...So as to say, you are attracted by...by...by...by me?"

"No, attraction is but a commoner's emotion. I'm the head of the Asai clan, and you are the head of the Oda clan. As both of us are carrying a huge responsibility, throwing away our personal feelings and getting into a political marriage is an obvious action."

Soft but cold words. The ladies's man in front of his eyes are playing around with the feelings of girls, Sagara trembled with anger.

"I...I...I...I... Er... political marriage is not....."

"This is such a surprising thing. I thought that Nobuna-sama will definitely understand, both of us are no longer kids."

"I, will at least want to choose my own husband! I should decide it myself! I want to marry the guy I love! This is a dream I had from young!"

"Oh, from your words, don't tell me you have someone you already fancy?"

To someone already in such a state of confusion, Nagamasa seems to be used to this kind of situation, his tone is still calm and confident.

"Such as, other than me, is it the other monkey over there?"

Nobuna became red from head to toe, her face can almost used to boil water.

"No....No such thing! This...This...This idiot is just my subordinate! A head of a family marrying just a lowly foot soldier is impossible! This...This...This kind of idiot, I'm totally, definitely, 100% don't feel anything from the bottom of my heart!!"

Sagara is walking around in circles on the tatami mat for no reason, was suddenly kicked in the face by Nobuna.

"It's hurts! What the hell are you doing!?" Sagara is angry too.

"Actually I don't love you at all." Suddenly being proposed by a guy who say something like this, Nobuna is so embarrassed that she is now confused. Sagara can't withstand such a thing anymore.

"Being proposed to by such a suave guy and yet acting like this, you are exposing the normal you now!"

"You...You...You... Don't just stand there not saying anything! This is a big matter regarding your master's chastity!"

"Ya right! This is not a matter that a foot soldier like me has any right to say anything about!"

"What? You should at least object! You are actually anxious right!? Or you intend to run away because he has such a handsome face? Don't tell me you are that kind of cowardly, chicken heart, wimp?"

"Hu...Huh? What are you saying!? Me, Sagara Yoshiharu-sama will do something like this? And where is the fact that I'm running away?"

"That...That is to say, the number 1 beauty in your dreams that you beg to have is going to be snatched away by this Asai Nagamasa, can you bear to be silent!?"

The hot weather seems to just heat up their argument, as both of them totally ignored Nagamasa who is looking at them like a show, with their argument becoming more and more heated.

"Wait just a minute there! You say who is the number 1 beauty?"

"That's of course me! No one else but me!"

"Huh? I'm just a lowly foot soldier, and a monkey. Don't you totally, definitely, 100% not feel anything from the bottom of your heart? Don't you label yourself as the Number 1 beauty in the world? If so, just find a gigolo who is matching in status and marry him, isn't that for the better?"

"Wh...What? Not cute at all! Why can't you just cry and shout
"Nobuna-sama is marrying some other guy! No, I don't want something like this! No! No! No!""

"What the hell is that!? Who will do such a stupid thing!?"

"Do it! Do it now! Shut up and beg me while crying "Only this, please don't do it!" Or else I will really marry Nagamasa!"

"Ya right! Non...Non...None of my business! Being charmed and attracted by such a guy who has already declare that he is marrying you not out of love can only mean that you are a dumb woman, isn't it!?"

"Po...Po...Po...Political marriages are a common thing in this sengoku era! I'm a head of a country after all! I'm not someone who can just choose anyone I like and marry!"

"Ahh, this sucks. I can't bear this anymore. Look at you! What you are doing now, is it fitting of Oda Nobuna who is trying to conquer the world?"

There will definitely be a day where Asai Nagamasa will break the alliance and betray the Oda clan.

But, Sagara cannot tell Nobuna the "future" from his knowledge of his games, that's the agreement between them. Because of this, Sagara is conflicted. If I just say "Don't marry Nagamasa!" without a reason, Nobuna will definitely think that I'm jealous over her without thinking of my position, thus adding to her arrogance and pride.

In actual fact, Sagara is already very jealous over this matter, but he himself just doesn't want to admit it! This and, Nobuna is his master, and he himself is her retainer at most.



"Argh... I got it! It's definitely that! You must not have understood the real reason why I gave Nene to you as a sister!"

"I understood it loud and clear! You just don't want me to get close to any girls and live life as a torture right!? You are such a woman! No, a demon wearing the skin of a woman!"

".....Th...Th...That's it! You...You...You are quite clear, aren't you!?"

"Hmmm!"

"Hmmm!"

And then both of them turn their back towards each other and fumed.

Such a never seen before drama in front of the gentleman of Omi, Asai Nagamasa. Inuchiyo is helpless.

".....becoming like this, it won't end until there is a result. The reply, we will definitely give you."

Nagamasa replied readily "Proposing to the princess at her age suddenly, I might be a bit too hasty too. I believe that time for considering is needed, I hope there will be a good reply."

".....Understood."

"Oh yes, Inu-dono. Though it's abit rude, but I will like to despatch soldiers to Mino to help out too. If it's for the future of my beloved wife, Omi will always despatch aid to Owari."

"A beautiful face not losing to a girl, a sudden proposal, and "A political marriage abandoning love" this kind of brave words, all of them totally confuses Nobuna the brat who knows nothing about love yet.

Bringing a smile that seems to have everything in control, Asai Nagamasa left Aoshuu castle.

After Nobuna beat Sagara up completely, she then found out that Nagamasa has already left. Noticing this and shouting "Idiot monkey, this is your fault! If the matters gets worse, what will we do!?", she left to her room while fuming. Inuchiyo followed hastily.

.....

Motoyasu, who was abandoned in the hall, poked her finger at the unmoving corpse of Sagara.

"Saruharu-kun, Saruharu-kun? Are you still alive?"

The half dead Sagara struggled back to the sitting position, while twisting his almost broken neck.

".....Almost... I think."

"Good job. Because of your performance with Kichi-nee-san, this matter was muddled through beautifully."

"Muddled through? Such a rare love lecture is spoilt into a fight....."

Motoyasu's lips turned into a proud smile like a Tanuki.

"Kichi-nee-san will form an alliance with the Asai clan one day because of her proceeding to the capital. But if we form the alliance now, it's obvious that the stronger Asai clan will be more advantageous. And the Asai clan specifically ran over to the Oda clan to ask for an alliance, to Kichi-nee-san, this alliance is necessary to go to the capital.

"Ah, that's why Nagamasa proposed to Nobuna with such an arrogant tone? Because he knows that Nobuna can not reject him?"

"If she marries now, Kichi-nee-san will forever be below Nagamasa. But if we conquered Mino, in terms of provincial strength, Kichi-nee-san will have the definite lead. If that happens, Nobuna no longer has to marry Nagamasa no matter what, even without marriage, the forming of an alliance is still possible."

"I see."

"That's why, to not let Nagamasa help us conquer Mino, Kichi-nee-san is desperately finding ways to delay her reply to Nagamasa."

"So that's why she suddenly attacked me." Sagara thought.

"If that's the case, why can't she hint me subtly?"

"And she was really angry around in the middle."

"Are we enemies in the past life? Why does she become so angry when she looks at my face?"

Motoyasu nods her head a little.

"I as a childhood friend can still understand a bit, but I can't tell Saruharu-kun."

"Why?"

"Because it's a secret. It might even be my trump card at the right moment. Hehehe."

"This small brat is really a bad hearted Tanuki." Sagara thought to himself.

After saying farewell to Motoyasu, Sagara ran as fast as he could to the city, passing by the streets of Aoshuu and finally met Asai Nagamasa's party.

"I should at least scold this disgusting bastard Nagamasa for saying a bunch of crap to Nobuna so confidently."

"Oi, you! Stop right now!"

"Master, should we kill him? " Nagamasa's men showed their killing intent.

"Another monkey? What do you have to say to this Saruyashamaru?"

"...Eh.....! Oi, Nobuna might be like that, but she is a pure girl who believes in love! Yet you bastard still talk about political marriage without love, this will trouble Nobuna!"

"Hahaha, you run all the way here to complain just because of jealousy? You are just a retainer, so no matter how much you love her, you two are impossible."

"Nonono, it's not like that! At least..... At least tell her that you like her! What you are doing is quite cruel!"

"I think that if I really lie to her, it will be even more cruel to her. From the first day she became a sengoku daimyo, she should have given up her right to choose her partner."

"What did you say!?"

"Nobuna-sama should have said it too, this is common in the sengoku era, Saru-kun. As a daimyo, she should always put the clan's interests first, getting troubled with choosing her husband can only be said as an action

of a lowly servant. Plus her ambition is to conquer the world, Nobuna should not be thinking of her own happiness as a woman."

"This kind of thing... How can this kind of thing...."

"Hahahaha, you are such a kid. Love at first sight, that is the right for a commoner who have to carry the responsibility of her home. As someone who carries the responsibility of an entire clan, she should have already given up on such a thing like the happiness of a woman. This is this world's common sense." Nagamasa overlooked Sagara on horseback, while coldly saying this.

"As the saying goes, one must make the painful decision when it's time. Nobuna-sama is smart, she should have this thinking and determination. In her heart, other than her giving me her reply, there is no other conclusion."

"So as to say, even if you guys do that elaborate act in front of me, it is at best a delaying technique. You a lowly general can't do anything. So just treasure the time you have now and cheer your princess up as the monkey you are."

"You...You...! You ev...even saw through that, yet still say "Political marriage without love" this kind of things.....You...You, don't you have your own feelings!?"

"I should just say it straight out, rather than letting her have her ambitions of conquering the world yet can't abandon her dream of choosing the husband she wants, I will just let her give up as soon as possible. What I'm doing is for her own good. I do not plan to, nor willing to do such a meaningless thing like lying to her."

"You...You just shut up! I have swore that I will make every of Nobuna's dream come true. If she said she can't give up on the world or love, I will help her get both of them if it's the last thing to do! If, only if you can promise to fall in love with Nobuna....."

"Sorry, I feel no feelings of love to Nobuna-sama at all, and there will be none in the future too. My heart is already possessed with my ambition, that's why I still have a bit of virtue and not bring Nobuna-sama to my side by any means necessary. In the future, I will use this princess to help me conquer the world."

".....You...You bastard.....!"

Not caring anything and pounced on Nagamasa, Sagara was brought to the floor by Nagamasa's men and beaten up badly.

"Just like a kid."

Looking at the currently beaten up Sagara, Nagamasa eyes became serious.

"You don't really think that you can be together with that princess?"

"That...That kind of thing, I have not considered before! What I... I wanna say is....."

"I have heard of a vagrant named Sagara Yoshiharu in Owari, such a guy like you can never marry the Oda princess. If it really happens, you will be attacked by numerous ministers and people, and letting Nobuna-sama have the title of "The real dimwit" and subsequently abandoned. At that time, Nobuna-sama will be utterly ruined."

Nagamasa's words though heartless, but is the undeniable truth.

But, even if that's the case, it's still unforgivable.

"You can never match up to her." Silently admitting to this gives Sagara an indescribable pain. This matter, Sagara can never accept it willingly no matter what.

Nighttime came, and Sagara returned to the Five leaf aralia houses all tired, but first, he went into his neighbor Inuchiyo's house to listen to Nobuna's situation.

But...

".....Hai....."

Inuchiyo gave a small sign.

"Inuchiyo, what is troubling you? Don't tell me you are thinking of Uiroumochi?"

".....Was imitating the princess-sama just now."

"Don't look like it one bit."

".....(Anger)"

Inuchiyo raised a hand and tried to pinch Sagara's face, but Sagara dodged reflexively and rolled to the room's safe corner.

Inuchiyo has also given up on chasing, and concentrated on cooking her Five leaf aralia soup.

".....Princess-sama said nothing about her own love. So what she really thinks, Inuchiyo does not know."

"You've been following Nobuna around for so many years, can't you make a guess?"

".....About this, I can't say anything to Sagara. That's what princess-sama ordered."

"What!? She plans to ignore me? Not cute at all."

Guru~guru~guru~guru^[4]

Angered, Sagara started to roll around the tatami mat in Inuchiyo's house.

At this time, an old man walked over the threshold into the house. Looking at the state Sagara was in, he put his foot onto Sagara's stomach.

"Oh!? That hurts, you old geezer!"

"Hohohoho. A man making such a fuss in here, that is not like what you should be doing, brat."

This old man who has retired here after joining Nobuna's side, is the once Mino's head, viper Saitou Dousan.

"Little girl, will be disturbing you for a while."

".....No problem."

After crossing swords with her god-son, Saitou Yoshitatsu and losing Mino to him, Saitou Dousan has been deported to Owari. Now, after passing his dream of conquering the world to his god-daughter Nobuna, Dousan no longer looks into political matters, and lived his life drinking tea.

After all, Mino's viper is someone who the Oda clan has fought for many years, just his presence will make one uncomfortable. That's why facing the Oda's retainers who are still evaluating him, Dousan can only act cautiously.

The Dousan in front of him coming all the way to the Five leaf aralia houses is the first though.

"Coming here specifically, you must have some purpose, geezer."

Sagara sat up straight facing Dousan.

Inuchiyo served tea wordlessly, while Dousan received it silently too.

"Not at all, not at all, I have already chosen retirement. What I want to say today is nothing of great importance to the Oda clan.

"So you're just here to chat? Because of that bastard Asai Nagamasa, my whole body is now bruised and hurts all over, why not tomorrow?"

"Hohohoho. The news of Omi's Asai Nagamasa proposing to Nobuna-sama has already spread through Aoshuu city.

"That's a bit too fast."

"It's probably Nagamasa who spread it. He is saying to let this marriage of us go smoothly as fast as possible, but in fact he should be trying to make this marriage a fact even before Nobuna-sama gives her reply."

".....Damn, that's too underhanded. As expected from someone who knows how to play with feelings."

"And," Dousan said.

"Anything else, geezer?"

"Always looking forward, you who are always running around for Nobuna-sama, I can't really agree with what you are doing today."

"Me? What's wrong with me?"

"Nobuna-sama is facing one of her biggest decisions in her lifetime, yet you chose to hide in Inuchiyo-dono's room and sulk while lying down. This is not the Sagara Yoshiharu I know."

Sagara, troubled, lowered his head.

"Even so, there is nothing wrong with Nagamasa's cold words. I'm just making a fuss around like a kid" Sagara grumbled silently in his heart.

".....Yes, you're right, geezer. But who Nobuna wanna marry is up to her, right? The me whose position of a retainer is the lowest has no right to say anything, since the difference in our positions is just too big."

Saitou Dousan's expression become serious suddenly, staring at Sagara while scolding "You... big fool!!!"

Sagara's body is pushed back by the pressure formed by Dousan's words.

"Wa, that almost scared me to death!"

"Brat! You are just running away!"

"Why...Why does everyone say i'm running away!?"

"What is it about the lowest position among the retainers? What is it about no right to say anything? What is it about difference in position is too great? If that's so, all you have to do is to climb up, isn't it all right if you become someone great!?" Dousan patted Sagara's shoulders with the fan in his hands.

"I was but a merchant selling oil, but now i'm a daimyo too! No matter what Nagamasa might plan to do, just remember, this is not the era of considering positions! Listen brat! Human this sort of thing, has no such thing called positions."

"So, instead of lamenting your lowly position, why don't you think of increasing your strength!" Dousan restated it again.

"Becoming...someone great....?"

"Yes. Sagara Yoshiharu, you came from the future Japan, isn't it because you want to let Nobuna-sama rely on you?"

".....Ah. Though I still don't know the reason I came over to the sengoku era, but I have thought about it, I might have come here from my era so I can be by the side of the genius, who is misunderstood by the world."

"If so, at the subsequent battle of Mino, make an achievement that no one else can! Make yourself to be a retainer that no one can replace, contribute to the Oda clan like nobody can. If so, Nobuna-sama will definitely use you, be a Oda general."

(If so, I might just be able to.....)

"General, so as to say you can have your own retainers, and having a province on my own under Nobuna's command. You mean I should become someone like that, geezer?"

"Yes. At that time, you don't need to be so timid, just say out loud that you object to the marriage with Asai Nagamasa."

"But....."

"Listen, brat. As you have seen, Asai Nagamasa is a handsome man who has attracted so many girls, but he has sealed his heart due to him being a hostage in the Sasaki clan, and has decided to never love any girl. He had used the Sasaki clan's retainers' wives and daughters an uncountable number of times, and thrown them away.

".....What!?"

"Because of this, Nagamasa allowed the Asai clan to obtain independence from the Sasaki clan. As a sengoku daimyo, he is someone to be feared. But as a man, that is also his fatal weakness.

Dong...Dong...Dong...Dong...

Sagara's heart seem to pound nosily, as if being affected by something.

"As expected, what I heard this morning in the teashop are all Nagamasa's real intentions."

"So as to say, from now on, Nagamasa will never develop any trace of love for Nobuna-sama."

Sagara's heart feels like being shattered into pieces.

Dousan continued to say: "Political marriages are the common sense in this sengoku era. Towards the princess daimyo Nobuna-sama, a marriage can even mean a trump card to expanding her power. To chase after the dream of conquering the world, she has no choice but to abandon her dream as a girl. This is an obvious decision."

But...

"For the dream of conquering the world, she abandoned another irreplaceable dream. If so, that child's later life will be filled with memories of loneliness and solitude. Even if in the end she obtained the world, but do you really think it's all right like that?"

Biting his lips, Sagara's eyes firmed up.

As if he is saying to himself.....

".....There is no helping it. This is the rule in the sengoku era, wanting to get both the world and love is not possible, Nagamasa also said that...."

Sagara understand this more then any others, he doesn't mean to say this kind of thing.

His own voice, due to his strong unwillingness, started to tremble and choked.

"Brat, that's all I have to say tonight. After this, it's your decision."

Dousan finished and walked slowly out of Inuchiyo's house.

After Dousan left, Sagara remained in his seiza position like a statue, not moving at all.

".....Sagara, Five leaf aralia soup is done."

With a face full of worry, Inuchiyo pulled lightly on Sagara's sleeve.

"Hey, Inuchiyo."

".....Today's soup, I added some overseas chili. It's delicious, ask Nene over too."

"Nobuna and Nagamasa's marriage, what is your opinion on that?"

".....Of course, I Object."

"Yeah. Can you persuade Nobuna, tell her "I object" and stop this marriage?"

Inuchiyo shake her head lightly.

".....Impossible."

"Eh? Why? How about Katsuie or Nagahide?"

".....If it's not Sagara, most probably will fail."

"Why?"

".....The one retainer who really understands princess-sama's dreams, is you."

Inuchiyo look at Sagara's eyes, and said lightly.

Unifying the world, growing Japan to a country where they are as strong as the european countries, creating such a strong country. And then, travelling around the sea using a big ship, using her own eyes to look at the "world" she had never seen before.

These are Nobuna's dream.

And...

And, Nobuna has another, a small dream.

Towards Nagamasa, Nobuna once said, isn't it?

"I will at least want to choose my own husband!"

Though she is a princess daimyo, this speech might be like a kid; not speaking with common sense at all, it might even be something that people ignore. But, undeniably, this is what her real self let slip under her confusion.

This is what Nobuna has buried deep inside her heart, a hypocritical yet pure dream.

Because of this, that's why towards Nagamasa's "For the world, abandon love", his not caring about Nobuna's real intentions and proposing a political marriage will only be chains to tie Nobuna down forever, Sagara can never accept this.

Can never forgive this sort of thing.

"I understand, Inuchiyo."

I am definitely here to help make her wishes come true, that's why I came to this world.

Though the truth might not be this, but that's what I think.

To Nobuna, I had sworn an oath too.

I forgot what I should do just because of my own lowly position. But due to Dousan that geezer and Inuchiyo, I finally remembered.

"Thanks, Inuchiyo!"

Sagara held Inuchiyo's hands tightly, his eyes glittered with joy.

"I have decided, I will make an outstanding achievement during the battle with Mino! And then, I will become a worthy Oda general, letting the Oda family become strong, and stop this marriage between Nobuna and Nagamasa. To match up with her who has set her eyes on the "world", that guy must at least be better."

".....Inuchiyo, will help out."

"If that's the case, I can stop them rightfully! Nagamasa, you just wait. I will destroy this plan of yours! I'm going to Aoshuu city to spread rumors that you are a womanizer! You just wait and see, Nagamasa! He...Hehe...Hehehehehe.....!"

Pinch~Inuchiyo pinched Sagara's cheeks.

".....Sagara, you laugh perversely. First, Mino."

"I know, I know!"

Sagara rubbed his cheeks, but suddenly he tilt his head.

Hmmm?

Why after deciding that I should stop Nobuna's marriage, that my heart feels so at ease?

(I know, it must be because I can let that Nobuna who feels that she is popular suffer a shock when the marriage is destroyed, yes, it can't be wrong! That idiot, how dare she send Nene to me to disrupt me from flirting, now is the time for payback! As long as I can't find a girlfriend, she will be single with me too! What goes around comes around! Let's wait and see!)

Being convinced by this kind of stupid reason, Sagara let out a sinister "hehehe" laughter, while Inuchiyo at the side thinks "Sometimes, troubled, sometimes, fussy, sometimes, laughing, sometimes a sinister face, Sagara is strange today" and looked at Sagara.

Notes

Note from Translator: This is a rough translation from the chinese raws we have. It is still under work and there will be lots of edits in the near future as i care more about bringing to readers the story rather than the correct

use of vocab and grammar. If any readers have inputs and want to edit, please do so.

~Tarmade~

Chapter 2: Takenaka Hanbei Enters The Fray!

After being proposed to by Asai Nagamasa, the decision to this marriage is "Attacking Mino is what's important, we will shelve this matter for now."

It's still uncertain if she will marry Nagamasa, but this reply will at least ensure that Omi will not disturb Owari while Nobuna is attacking Mino. Though this reply seems politically motivated, from what one can see from Nobuna, she does not seem to care about the marriage at all.

No matter what, being proposed to is still the first in her lifetime, there will be much confusion and not knowing what to do. But after looking at Sagara who decided to not care about this matter until after he have achieves great feats during the attack of Mino, Nobuna could not bear it.

"Though both are of the same species, why does our monkey differs so much from Omi's Saruyashamaru? Ahhh, I think I should get married after all."

Such rants and complaints could be often heard.

"Yeah. Marriage or elopement, do whatever you like! If you have what it takes, just try it!"

Sagara readily accepted the rants.

After listening to this, no one won't expect Nobuna's anger to explode again. Niwa Nagahide, Shibata Katsuie, and other retainers were helpless towards this matter.

Now in the grand hall of Aoshuu, Nobuna and her retainers were gathered together. As for what's the agenda for this meeting, everyone already knew of it.

"The start of the battle of Mino!" There was but this agenda, and the retainers who were present are.....

"The start to conquer the world, it has finally come! My hands have already started to itch with anticipation." The number 1 retainer, bold and decisive. From Sagara's estimation, this Shibata Katsuie had the capacity of a G-cup! Her childhood name is "Riku".

Though her childhood name should be "Gonroku", but because of her history of changing from small boobs to giant boobs, she complained that the name "Gonroku" was not cute at all, the strength of someone who

finally changed her name to "Riku" can not be shown just on her chest, but also on her unparalleled spear skills.

Ever since following under Nobuna's brother, Nobukatsu, she had always hoped to be a retainer of Nobuna. Now that this wish was fulfilled, she was even more active and full of motivation. Incidentally, Katsuie's favorite food was miso udon. As long as it's smeared with miso, she would not reject it, no matter if it's shaved ice or Uiroumochi.

"Inabayama castle was designed by Saitou Dousan himself. It's hard to attack but easy to defend. 33 points," said Niwa Nagahide, Nobuna's young retainer. It's as if she was Nobuna's sister, a mature and gentle beauty. The smile on her face was almost her trademark, and her character was seldom being manipulated by her own desires.

Though she's a bit naggy, she was an irreplaceable existence in the Oda clan. That's why the retainers called her "Kome-gorozae". It meant her talent was as necessary as rice. But compared to "Gorozae", Nobuna likes to call her using her childhood name "Manchiyo". For unknown reasons, she had the weird habit of giving points to anything. She did not have any favorite food nor did she detest any particular food.

"Hahahahahaha! Just leave it to me, Kanjuurou Nobukatsu!"

Oda Nobukatsu, also known as Kanjuurou. As self proclaimed "Number one beauty in Owari" Nobuna's brother, he was a guy who has very similar looks to his sister. His hobby was to play around with his fanclub of girls all day long.

His special trait was cross-dressing. If he dressed himself as a courtesan, he would be even more charming than normal girls. He was once rebellious towards Nobuna, but he was trying his best to help his sister right now. Though his skills of playing around can be considered professional, his talent as a general was nowhere to be seen. As of now, he was being tortured to death by Katsuie under the name of training to becoming a warrior.

Because of this, his body was never seen without new injuries. His favorite food seems to be Uiroumochi, as he was always fed that by Nobuna when he was still small. He even has the ambition to promote Uiroumochi everywhere if he can achieve much in his conquest as a general.

"-----Maeda Inuchiyo, always by the princess side."

Current aide, Maeda Toshii, childhood name Inuchiyo. A sister character to Nobuna, though quiet, she can be adamant in getting things done. Her body size is delicate, but she always uses a bamboo spear. She was once banished from Owari for striking down Nobukatsu, she rejoined Nobuna during the battle of Okehazama wearing a tiger hat.

The sudden change of the plain girl to one with attention seeking accessories gave quite a shock to the Oda clan's retainers. What could have happened during that period when she was gone?

From what Inuchiyo said, she seemed to have "lost herself during a trip to find herself". Seems like she changed herself to a beast while being in the harsh environments of the wild, this is what Nagahide evaluates.

And there's one more thing that was known to everyone. Inuchiyo was Sagara's neighbor in Five-Leaf Aralia Houses. For Sagara who had just traveled from modern Japan to the Sengoku era which he knew nothing about, Inuchiyo tried her best to take care of him.

To Sagara, Inuchiyo was a very reliable comrade, but it would be even better if her chest was bigger. (Real words from Sagara) As for her favorite food, it was definitely Nobuna's frequent reward to her, Uiroumochi.

"I'll definitely achieve great feats to destroy that bastard Nagamasa's marriage plans."

The idiot who said this kind of tactless stuff with blazing eyes, was our protagonist Sagara Yoshiharu, also known as Saru.

Job: An ordinary high school student in modern Japan, but was thrown into this Sengoku era for reasons unknown. If this kind of stuff happened to others, they might panic or be depressed, but Sagara was an idiot with guts, not to mention he was a game fanatic of Sengoku era games. With his thinking of "I came from the future! Heaven must have sent me here to help Nobuna out!", he was full of confidence.

As a substitute to Toyotomi Hideyoshi who saved his life in the battlefield, he believes it is his duty to help Nobuna conquer the world with the help of his Sengoku era games knowledge. As for his dream, "I want to play around with the world's number one beauty!" is as expected.

Though he does not have much misgivings on the heavy flavour of Owari, a life with every meal full of miso gave him quite a headache. As of now,

he aims to use his own talent to achieve many great feats in the battle of Mino, and reject Nobuna's marriage to Nagamasa.

Though he himself had found a bunch of reasons and excuses, but from what others see, he was just someone who had forgotten his place and was very jealous of Nagamasa.

"This Inabayama castle that I build myself is not something that you guys can conquer that easily."

This old man who was seeking refuge in Owari was the Daimyo of Mino, Nobuna's godfather, "Saito Dousan", aka "Viper". He was once an oil merchant in the capital, but conquered Mino and became a sengoku Daimyo. Becoming a master of a province had also wasted most of his life away. After giving his ambition to the foolish princess of Owari, Oda Nobuna, he was betrayed by his son who was indignant about his decision to give Mino to Nobuna, and almost died in the battlefield.

The one who saved this Dousan whose life was supposed to be up, was Sagara Yoshiharu. Originally, Sagara thought that with Dousan here, Mino will be ours, but the important Dousan revealed a very troubled face, and kept opening and closing the paper fan in his hand.

Dousan had been showing signs of old age ever since coming to Owari. His body's condition has been worsening, it was definitely not good to force it. But though his body no longer matched his name of "Viper", he displayed an image of a grandfather who loves and dotes on his own daughter, Nobuna. He will most likely be defending Aoshuu castle in this battle too, that's what Nagahide thinks.

"Japan's strongest cavalry troops, 'The Tiger of Kai', Takeda Shingen, the rate of her invasion is surprisingly quick. Now is not the time to dilly dally." And last, we have the master of the Oda clan who was controlling Owari, Oda Nobuna, childhood name is "Kichi".

Though she often wears a very bizarre and strange outfit, when she wears her formal attire, it would shock anyone; saying she was Owari's number 1 bishoujo was very fitting for her. After defeating Imagawa Yoshimoto at Okehazama, Oda Nobuna's name had rung out through the whole country and she became the most striking sengoku Daimyo.

After Nobuna's father, Oda Nobuhide, died, she succeeded the head of the Oda clan with the title of "Owari's foolish princess", and had been pushing forward with her ambition of conquering the world. As a fan of overseas

stuff, she had been treating the globe she obtain from a christian missionary as a treasure and the arquebus in her hand never left her side.

If she was able to pacify this Sengoku battles, she would develop Japan to be a country that can stand up to those foreign countries, and begin her adventure to tour the world. Someone who had this kind of dream that could never be understood by anyone other than the modern student Sagara was none other than Nobuna.

Her favorite food was her braised chicken wings. But after being proposed by Omi's Asai Nagamasa, she began showing a troubled face even when eating her chicken wings. Especially when her rival Sagara was around, she would bring up the topic of marriage to antagonize Sagara.

"She must be hoping that Sagara will stop this marriage", Nagahide comments.

But Sagara seemed not to care as a result of his pride, as he had already made up his mind (Before achieving anything, he will not say a word about the marriage). And after looking at such a non-caring Sagara, Nobuna started getting angrier while thinking "Why is this damn monkey still acting like this? Don't tell me he felt that it's not his business whether I marry or not?", anyone could see that her mood was getting worse by the day.

Just like that, the important generals of the Oda clan had now assembled (Though Sagara was still at the back seat), waiting for their master to give the order to invade Mino. While eating her jumbo braised drumstick and using her legs to spread the map of Mino, she announced to her aides "Time to conquer Mino."

"Justice is with us, the Oda clan! In our hands we have the 'Mino treaty' signed personally by Viper, and we have the duty to return my godfather, Saitou Dousan, to Inabayama castle. Saitou Yoshitatsu is just an unfilial son who banished his own father."

"But Mino has officially recognized Saitou Yoshitatsu as the head. Now that they are united, it seems like things won't go easily. 20 points," Nagahide said.

While sipping his tea, Dousan said with a voice full of weariness, "Mino was originally stolen by me. Although Yoshitatsu was brought up by me, he is the rightful heir of Mino. From the eyes of the Mino people, I'm the wrong one. You can't break through their defense lines that easily."

This is it, Saitou Yoshitatsu is the heir of the owner of Mino who Dousan banished. When he conquered Mino, to appease the people, Dousan appointed the heir Yoshitatsu as his own heir. But this cunning plan was given up along with his plan of "I should give this Mino to the cute Nobuna-chan." Being banished by Yoshitatsu is actually nothing strange at all.....

"Yoshitatsu and I go back a long way. He is totally different from me when I was young, he is not with a sense of beauty. With his short height and plump physique, he looks just like a sumo wrestler. The old me loved beautiful people! I definitely won't give the position of Mino's master to anyone but Nobuna-chan!"

"You geezer still have the nerve to say that.....If you had maintained a good relationship with Saitou Yoshitatsu, the situation now wouldn't be this troublesome," Sagara said silently with his face showing nothing at all.

"Viper, height is not important, but it's due to Saitou Yoshitatsu that Mino is now united and well taken care of."

"That is because during my reign, I put across many controversial policies, and my popularity has dropped to the bottom. If you stop these policies to appease the people who are against them, anyone will say that you are a wise ruler, Nobuna-dono."

"***Oh, controversial policies. Didn't Nobuna-sama conduct a similar experiment of planing to create/restore new towns in Kiyoshou?"

"Yeah, the Rakuichi-Rakuza policy. In fact, this policy was inspired by you, Viper. However, it was not as successful as planned."

"Yes. I had abolished the old trading privileges of "Za", wanting to build a free trade environment for the people. I was a trader; commerce is the foundation of a country's development and the prosperity of the people, I at least know this reasoning."

[T/N: [Za] are old trading communities formed by the shrines, daimyo, or people. They monopolize the trading rights of whole cities in the middle ages of Japan. Hence, the abolition of this [Za] policy is called the [Rakuchi] (乐座), and the existence of the [Za] itself that has been abolished is called the [Rakuza].]

"But after the abolition of the [Za] meant that the taxes and exchange rates would be severely reduced, causing those who used the said method to gain wealth to slowly lose their source of income..."***

"Yes. With this, the people who embezzle money from these "Za" can't do that anymore and that is why they are so angry at me."

"That's why once Yoshitatsu started his reign over Mino, to gain the support of the people, "Za" was re-introduced. Because of this, the economy that was starting to pick up has declined again, making the cities dead without life," Dousan said severely. It seems like he was deeply angered by his successor's uselessness.

No matter the era, the troubles brought by opposition to the policies will always be there when there is a revolution in policies. Actually, if one wants to unify this country that is torn apart by different warring states, protecting the trading economy and allowing the people to trade freely is a necessary measure! And one can't just eliminate those embezzling bastards called "seats", one should even waive off any trading tax between provinces.

"Ke-chak!"

"Viper, the way your back is bending, are you alright?"

".....Owwwww! It seems like I'm a bit.....too excited. My back...."

"Anyways, Dousan-dono, Inabayama castle and the cities below it are all designed by you, right? You should have considered ways to attack it," Katsuie asked optimistically.

"Can you reveal a bit? Though Inabayama castle looks easy to defend but hard to attack, it should have some weakness, right?"

"About that, Katsuie-dono, I'm afraid not... The Inabayama castle..."

"In...Inabayama castle?"

"The Inabayama castle of now can't be invaded. Even with my strategies, we can't do anything to the castle. It's not easy even for the Tiger of Kai, Takeda Shingen, or the god of war, Uesugi Kenshin."

"Wh...What?!"

"Viper, is that true?"

"This is quite troublesome. 12 points...No, 3 points."

".....Sagara, how...?"

"Inuchiyo, act a more panicky face for starters!"

".....Wa~WA~"

The room was full of chaos all of a sudden. Originally, everyone thought that since Dousan is here, this would be easy, but it seems like they had underestimated the feat of conquering Mino. Inabayama castle was designed and built by Saitou Dousan personally.

Relying on just Mount Kinka as a natural shield, and deploying various guard posts to guard against the invading Owari army, the main guard post on the mountaintop was 330 feet high. In addition, the north face of the mountain had the Nagara river and the Sakai river separating Owari and Mino forming a natural wall around the castle, protecting it from other invading countries.

Also, the towns and villages at the foot of the mountain could be changed to defending bases at any sign of an approaching invasion. It could be said to be the deliberate and cunning plan of the Viper. Oda clan's previous head, Nobuna's father, Oda Nobuhide, had led multiple invasions of Inabayama castle, but due to Saitou Dousan's devious and cunning plans, and the natural defenses of the castle, he had always returned empty handed. Thinking about the disastrous defeats now, the Oda clan's aides still talked about it. The reason why the aides believed that they can conquer Mino this time was because the enemy, Dousan, was now Nobuna's godfather and had become their ally, allowing them see a shred of hope.

"Try thinking about this, Katsuie-dono, if I really did have a plan to conquer that castle, would I still have lost to that brat, Yoshitatsu?"

"You...You have a point there.....But...But no matter how small your army was, with your intelligence you should not have be defeated so utterly. Even if he's your son, Saitou Yoshitatsu, there is no reason for you to show mercy.

"Correct. Actually....."

"Act...actually?"

While showing off an expression of pain and rubbing his back, Dousan explained the situation.

"Actually there is a genius strategist with intelligence far above mine. Though it's unbearable, I have to admit she is someone I can't defeat."

"Genius strategist?"

"Does Mino have such a person? No no, Mino army's strategist should only be Dousan." Katsuie and others tilt their head in puzzlement.

"Mino has such a hidden talent still... I'm totally in the dark, Viper."

"Hahaha. It's not strange at all that you knew nothing about her. She does not want to meddle in the countries' affairs and has been in recluse till now..... The name is..."

"Takenaka Hanbei, isn't it?" Sagara said it without blinking.

"Oioi! Brat! I had created such an atmosphere and yet you... Ow...! My back, my back!!!"

"You know of her, Saru?!"

"What a question, that bastard is a very famous genius strategist in Japan history! His intelligence is 98 even without any item equipped, a totally unbalanced character!"

"Saying something monkey again, what is that 'ai~tei~mu'?"

"Giving other people points is my right actually." The Oda clan's females started to talk among themselves.

"Oioioi, isn't Takenaka Hanbei being called as the 'Current Zhuge Liang'? How can you guys show such a bewildered face?!"

"I know nothing at all!"

".....Current Zhuge Liang? Who's that?"

"Saru, don't tell me you're a spy sent from Mino?"

"Oioi, there is something strange within those lines, Nobuna."

"Ridiculous! Don't use such an affectionate name, you Saru-suke."

"You are the one being impolite, ok?"

Dousan laughed, "Hahahaha. As expected from Oda clan's number one guy, totally correct. Takenaka Hanbei has an aloof personality, that's why she is unknown to the world. This girl can be considered my hidden dragon."

""Hidden dragon". That should be the nickname of Zhuge Liang in the Romance of the Three Kingdoms. As expected, Hanbei is a genius that rivals Zhuge Liang?"

"There is no need to be so arrogant for a mere monkey to know of China's history." Nobuna's lips formed the ^ shape again.

"Exactly, actually in Japan, there are two genius strategists. If one can ally with both of them, it won't be long before one can conquer the world. First is the Hidden Dragon, Mino's Takenaka Hanbei. She has been a genius from birth, and has been discovered for quite some time. As for the other, she is "Young Phoenix", though she is immature as of now, but given time, she will definitely rise like the phoenix. She is....."

"Kuroda Kanbei, right?"

"Oi!!! Why did you snatch my cool moments again and again, you brat!" Dousan shouted.

"Sagara-dono, as expected from our no. 1 general!"

"It's nothing at all, both of them are old faces in all Sengoku games. I feel embarrassed being complimented by you. It's totally nothing since I'm only playing games."

"Oh. This mystical stuff "Sengoku Geimu" from the country of monkeys, what a scary item!"

"Oi, I'm not from the country of monkeys!" Sagara shouted.

"Yes, it just so happen that the country of monkeys is a bit more advanced. How can someone like this guy be the number one smart guy? But Viper, is that Takenake Hanbei that strong?"

"That goes without saying. Most importantly, this guy is the strongest and most difficult enemy towards Nobuna-dono and me."

"What do you mean?"

"Even if I explain it to Nobuna-dono, you won't be able to understand... For realistic people like me and you, to say it simply will be she is someone with abnormal talent."

"Abnormal talent? What a suspicious way of saying."

"Takenaka Hanebi isn't just a strategist, she is an onmyouji. She even knows the old strategies of this country that were lost long ago."

"Weren't onmyoujis the trend in Kyoto in the Heian period, something like a fortune teller? Do such people still exist now?" Nobuna asked.

From the Muromachi period, aides that have been protecting the daimyos have been using the onmyoujis to decide which day to attack, and using them to cast spells on enemies were not uncommon. But, as new and rising sengoku daimyos, Saitou Dousan and Oda Nobuna did not care about things that were not scientific.

They would rather order their troops to move and attack freely or to initiate lightning fast battles than rely on old fortune telling techniques that slow down their troop movements. Because of this, Nobuna was shocked to hear that this genius strategist Takenaka Hanbei was an onmyouji, an old and mysterious entity.

"Now is the era of western science, such an advisor is not my opponent at all! It's tricks at most."

"Seeing is believing. You will understand once you face her in battle, but you might lose your life."

"You won't know what will happen unless you try! Everyone, move out to Mino now! Let me see what is so great about this Takenaka Hanbei with my own eyes!"

Nobuna stood up gallantly, and rushed out alone.

Everyone has already gotten used to her behavior.

"Oi, wait! What are you gonna do if you rush out alone!?"

Sagara and Inuchiyo chased after her too.

But,

Sagara was thinking to himself, "A plan like the battle of Okehezama will most likely not work...", and was beginning to have a bad feeling about

this. Dousan stopped Sagara, who was running after Nobuna and gave him an idea. "Brat, Nobuna-dono will most likely be heading towards defeat. Can you keep this a secret from Nobuna-dono and lend me 50 of your soldiers?" Sagara agreed and nodded.

"Conquer and return my godfather's Dousan's Mino with your own hands!"

Nobuna personally lead thousands of the Owari army, and headed towards the lands of Mino. Though they had met with some defense of the resisting Mino army, they were defeated one by one. Owari's army seemed unstoppable.

Owari's army had always been rated as the weakest, and the master was that fool princess Nobuna. Not long ago, the people had still been using these to laugh. But after attaining the miraculous victory in the battle of Okehazama, not only did Nobuna's fame rise rapidly, the Owari soldiers who had always had low morale had been discussing among themselves, "Our princess-sama, though she looks like a fool, she has the backbone of a hero." "Ohoh, I've also seen it, on the eve of the battle of Okehazama, princess-dono had committed to die and danced to the tune! That scene was so beautiful that I cried, I cried!!" "For our beautiful princess-sama, even if it's to the depths of hell, we will....."

The soldiers became like this, having rarely shown morale and motivation. Looks like no matter the era, guys will always fall for beautiful women. At the front of the troops and holding the job of vanguard, it's obviously the fiercest general of the Owari army, Shibata Katsuie. In the middle are Nobuna's personal bodyguards, Nagahide and Inuchiyo. At the back of the army, being rated the weakest in Owari, is Kanjuurou Nobukatsu.

Always taking care of things around Katsuie, and being commented by Nobuna that he is totally useless when facing the strong Mino army, he was thrown to the back of the army. In the midst of Nobukatsu's army, Sagara was present too.

As he sucked in horse riding, he could only continue to ride behind Goemon. "Why did she throw me at the back!? I wanna make some big achievements in this battle, this is disappointing."

"It can't be helped. It's pvious people will worry if Sagara-shi can't get uzed to horse riding."

"Really, after getting the promotion of rank, it has no meaning if you can't even ride a horse into battle."

"Ahhhh, we had peacefully passed the Sakai river, and the enemies are all gone. How I wish we can just rest here for the day....." Nobukatsu said with a refreshing smile.

"Too naïve, Nobukatsu. Didn't your father, Nobuhide, get defeated when he camped in the middle of the enemies' grounds? We can't let them ambush us, so we should just rush all the way in."

"Father-sama was defeated because of Saitou Dousan. Now that Saitou Dousan is guarding Aoshuu for us, defeating Saitou Yoshitatsu should be a piece of cake. No matter what, that big brute is just someone without brains. He is nothing compared to me, as expected of the gentleman of Owari. Hahahahaha"

"You should have a limit to your optimism," Sagara thought.

"Oh, there's mist now..... And it's getting thicker, Saru-kun."

"It's so weird to have mist at such a time at night, but with this, it seems like advancing any further will be impossible."

Seems like Nobuna who is in the middle of the army is considering stopping for now.

Shibata Katsuie's vanguard army had also stop moving, with this, the whole army had stopped in the forest called "Nagamori". The town at the tip is just in front, and the distance between the Owari army and Inbayama castle was just a short 4 km. "By the way, during the time when saving Dousan, it seemed like there was mist too."

Sagara thought while his heart was filled with a weird restlessness. "At that time, it's because of the mist that I could get near Dousan's base. I will like to think that it was natural weather, but if it's not a coincidence and someone made it to disable Dousan's chain of command..."

Impossible. A magician who can control mist, not saying the Heian period which was full of demons and ghosts, in this Sengoku era, it should not exist. "Even in the most esteemed game "Oda Nobunaga no Yabou", there is no magic command like in RPG games. A battle's outcome is decide on the amount of soldiers, equipment, and the general leading them," Sagara muttered to himself.

At that moment... suddenly, there were shouts all around them. Mino soldiers started coming out from the forest, the dam, and villages to ambush the Owari army.

"Damn, an ambush!"

Following battle drums, soldiers started rushing out in waves, it's almost like the genius strategist from "Romance of the three kingdoms" Zhuge Liang's strategy.

"Wh...Wh...Wh...What is going on, Saru-kun?!"

"We underestimated Mino. Battling us with small amounts of soldiers and retreating repeatedly was all to trap us here at "Nagamori"! This place is most likely the centre of the ambush, and because of the mist, Nobuna did not notice that this is a death trap!"

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!"

"My ears hurt from that! Oi, don't shout suddenly at my side, Nobukatsu."

"This is a habit of the Oda family! If we don't report to Onee-sama now..."

"No... it seems like the troops are being decimated."

The enemies were coming from all directions without stopping. All they could hear were the drums. Being scared and frightened, the Owari soldiers dropped their spears and started running away.

"Ahhhh...! Unbelievable, the Owari army that crushed Imagawa Yoshimoto is being crushed so easily! If... if I don't rush to Onee-sama and protect her, Onee-sama will....."

"Calm down, I'm going over to Nobuna's side now! Nobukatsu, try and think of a way to group the soldiers together, do your job of being the back support properly! Be careful of any ambushes and ensure that the retreat path is safe!"

"I will lead Onee-sama's troops over to the river, Saru-kun!"

"Let's go over to the princess's side, Sagara-shi."

Goemon straddle the horse and galloped away with Sagara. As expected of a ninja, her night vision was outstanding. On such a misty night, she could still find the position of Nobuna's troops and dash over in a straight

line. But before Sagara reached Nobuna, the troops were being depleted fast.

"What the hell is going on? And what is with this disgusting mist, so troublesome!"

"Nobuna, we fell into Takenaka Hanbei's trap! If we don't retreat now, we will be trapped. Please give the order to retreat now!"

"This level of ambush, it will be all over if we finish all of them off!"

"No, the ambush numbers are still increasing."

"What? Isn't it over already?"

"Hanbei set up heavy ambushes at different spots! Because of this mist, your decision making skills have become slow too."

Even before Nobuna's voice faded, more waves of ambushing soldiers revealed themselves following the drum sounds.

"Che...I, I don't believe in such a superstitious thing like onmyouji! This mist is just a coincidence, nothing but a coincidence. "

"You can be stubborn all you want when we are back in Aoshuu!"

"No... No... Not stubborn at all! You cursed Saru, which side are you on!?"

The way Mino's army chased Nobuna could only be described as pressing. Just when Nobuna uneasily broke through the third wave of the ambush, the fourth and fifth waves of the ambush charged at them through the white mist. Shibata Katsuie and Inuchiyo's bamboo spears pierced up and down finally opening up a bloody path. But just when they thought they had reached somewhere safe, from just a signal from the drums, the sixth and seventh waves of the ambush charged straight towards them.

"Hime-sama, this is an ambush from all sides! If this goes on, we will be decimated. 0 points!" The usually demure and gentle Niwa Nagahide had been splattered with drops of enemy blood all over her armor as she swung her Naginata while shouting.

"Ambushed from all sides?"

"A strategist from ancient China, named "Chen Li", this is his favorite technique, laying lots of ambush around an area and using a tiny amount of troops to lure the enemy in..."

"Again with the Zhuge Liang's traps!" Nobuna snorted.

"I'm afraid the enemies' strategist is well aware of different ancient traps and techniques, this must be Takenaka Hanbei's work."

"Manchiyo! Did you get overly arrogant after the victory of Okehazama?"

"No, Hime-sama should have been able to detect the ambush if there was no mist. This time we were just unlucky."

Nagahide decisively swung her Naginata while consoling Nobuna. And Nobuna who was on horseback was shivering with anguish while tightly biting her own rosy lips.

"Anyway, we should retreat back to Aoshuu!"

"Understood!"

"Saru, stop falling into a daze like a fool and protect me properly!"

"Who is falling into a daze!? I beg you Goemon, use your smoke screen to fight against this mist!"

"I got it!"

With no concern about hierarchy at all, Sagara brought his ninja right before his master Nobuna.

Goemon threw her smoke bombs in all direction, creating a smokescreen to blind the enemies.

And at that exact moment, there was a small troop of Nobuna's army walking out from the south of Inabayama. At the sight of this new troop, the Mino army shouted, "Not good, Nobuna's army counter attacked them by going straight to Inabayama castle."

The pursuit for Nobuna stoped while all of them were panicking.

It looks like the Mino army was still wary of Nobuna's lightning speed assault when she attacked Okehazama. But in actual fact, the small troop were actually the people who Sagara lent to Saitou Dousan, while he who knew the actual topology around Inabayama lead them over. This 50 people strong troop, while holding torches were moving like they were a big army invading the area. These people under Sagara who made a living by stealing are shouting "The festival has begun!" and lit up the whole side of Inabayama, all the while making lots of noise.

The ambush stopped at the eighth wave, as the final wave that was supposed to give the final blow, panicked and ran towards Inabayama castle. The Oda army could be said to have narrowly escape elimination.

"What is this? Who are those reinforcements?"

The retreating Nobuna was full of questions, but Sagara, riding behind Goemon did not answer. He did not want to let Nobuna know that Dousan had expected this defeat. High in morale after defeating Imagawa Yoshimoto, yet being defeat so utterly by Takenaka Hanbei, telling Nobuna the truth now would just give her unnecessary troubles. Grasping this rare opportunity, Nobuna escaped frantically towards Aoshuu.

After retreating to Aoshuu, they were finally getting a grasp on the situation of Mino's army. As expected, Saitou Yoshitatsu had recruited Takenaka Hanbei and given her commanding authority over his troops. The fearsome "Ambush from all sides" was also Hanbei's idea. Needing to deploy ambush at different areas, this kind of complicated and delicate plan, the people who can execute it perfectly are far and few between. But in the hands of Hanbei, this "Ambush from all sides" was executed so easily. If not for the small troop acting out a counterattacking army and distracting the Mino's army attention, Nobuna might have been surrounded and cut off from all retreat routes by this "Ambush from all sides".

If that was really the case, it would really be hard to predict if they would be able to return to Aoshuu safely. Being played around like a kid by Takenaka Hanbei, just this point was enough to make Nobuna fuming with anger.

"What kind of battle was that, this is just playing around! I'm totally being played around by her!"

Being driven by humiliation and killing intent, while stomping the ground repeatedly, Nobuna was ranting on "We must attack again tonight!" But after Nagahide's "Everyone is still wary of Hanbei, and the fatigue from last night has not been fully recovered, we must at least let the troops rest for a week. 20 points." Nobuna simmered down and vented her anger on her favorite chicken drumstick for a whole week.

During this time, Sagara walked in and out of Dousan's house, frantically seeking an answer to how to defeat Hanbei, while Dousan kept scratching his head while thinking too. During this era where the western culture was slowly seeping into Japan, Takenaka Hanbei who was well versed in the

Onmyoudou of ancient Japan and capable of different spells could be called a last boss character. And as Nobuna was a realistic person, their characters could be describe as water and fire, nemesis to the end.

During this week, Sagara was even thinking of ways to conquer Inabayama castle during his sleep. And during this period, Omi's Asai Nagamasa had been sending letters to Nobuna asking if they should send reinforcements. Of course, that would mean Nobuna would have to agree to Nagamasa's marriage proposal. And in actual fact, it would also mean she would be handing over Owari's power and influence over to Nagamasa. Nobuna rejected all these temptation-like proposals, and declared to the envoy that she would use her own power to conquer Mino. But the tricks of this strongest Onmyouji, the genius strategist, Takenaka Hanbei, were not as simple as just the "Ambush from all sides."

This week of waiting and thinking passed by in an instant, in a blink of an eye, it's the time to move out to Inabayama castle. Using a fake army to ensure a retreat route was no longer usable. Though the same trick might be usable twice if its against Yoshitatsu, but it might not work if it's against Hanbei. Because of this, Nobuna, Katsie and Sagara had made the resolve to battle to their deaths.

"Everyone, there will be an adjustment to the route we are moving out on. To not allow any ambush from Mino, we will move out from Pingyuan! Don't forget to send in spies."

In the second invasion of Mino, Nobuna made large adjustments to the army. The vanguard would be leaded by Owari's weakest, Oda Nobukatsu. The appreciative Nobukatsu cried while saying "Onee-sama! I Nobukatsu will not fail your expectation and swear to perform the duties of a vanguard to the end!"

Looking at her brother being like this, Nobuna gave a uncaring face and said "We do not know what Hanbei will do this time, so you will be the one who will walk at the front, enjoy being cannon fodder." This plain act of letting her own brother be the sacrifice gave quite a scare to Nobukatsu.

"It's too dangerous to move out at night, so we will move during the day under the sunlight. Beware of any ambush and move out!"

Nobuna led an army of 2000 soldiers and moved out from Aoshuu castle at dawn. Once again, the Oda army moved out from the river and towards

Mount Inaba. Though the river's waters were fast moving, the water level was not deep and the horses and foot soldiers were barely able to cross it.

"Now there is no more way for "Ambush from all sides" to work! Even if the enemy appears, our losses will only be Kanjuurou at most!" What a mean sister, though she did not mean it at all.

While worrying about her little brother being the vanguard, and sending out spies to detect any traces of enemy ambush, the Oda army slowly and carefully walked into enemy territory. After crossing the river and reaching the plains, Nobuna set fire to her surroundings. Of course, she did not do it out of it being a hobby of hers.

"As a precaution, burn any areas that seems suspicious! I will not give Hanbei any chance for an ambush!"

The troops led by Kanjuurou were in the first section, the second section consisting of Katsuie's troops followed behind with a bit of distance between them. At the back of the army, were the troops led by Nobuna. To prevent any surprise attacks from the enemy, all troops deployed a circle defensive formation. This behavior was totally unfitting of the usually rash style of Nobuna. This was an iron wall formation where if there was any enemy attacks from the sides or back, all troops would be able to quickly surround them and finish them all. But this time around, Nobuna had lost her biggest weapon - Speed. Though she herself had not noticed this at this point of time.

Although they were supposed to move towards Inabayama castle, the troops lead by Kanjuurou were now in a state of complete panic. After moving for a while, they were enveloped by an unknown white mist, and their area of sight started to get worse, though this was just a start. After returning to their senses, they found out that they had left the road to the castle and had walked into a swamp full of towers formed by huge rocks.

"What... is this place?"

No matter how slow, the inauspicious aura created by this stone maze made Nobukatsu know the danger of it, having lost his way again and again. But Nobukatsu who had rashly stepped into this stone maze couldn't find the way he walked in and had no way to get out too. This maze was created by using the stone towers effectively to make any intruder lose their way.

Discovering this, the Owari army at the back had already stepped into the stone maze.

"No...no...no...no...not good, if this goes on, Onee-sama will be lost in this stone maze too!"

Nobukatsu ran around the maze like an ant on a frying pan, but no matter how he moved, what was in front of him were similarly shaped stone towers. He rode around in the maze in a frenzy, but in the end, he couldn't find a way out.

This kind of rash action only advanced them deeper into the maze where the soil texture below them kept getting softer and softer. The horses they were riding on seemed to take their next step with increasing difficulty, and gave the army lots of trouble.

"It seems like the enemy is using the muddy swamp area near the river to create a maze and trap us in there." Nobukatsu almost burst out in tears.

Trapped in the maze like him, Yoshiharu, Goemon and Nobukatsu's sister, Nobuna, all crowded around him after hearing his cry of anguish.

"Don't give up, Nobukatsu! A maze like this can be easily overcome by just sticking close to the walls!"

"Yeah, Kanjuurou, this kind of demonic trick is nothing at all!"

Nobuna gathered her trusted aides to start discussing a way to get out of this maze.

"Manchiyo! What is going on with this maze? Don't tell me it's another trap from Takenaka Hanbei?"

"Yes, I think this is the legendary trap by Zhuge Liang, 'Stone Sentinel Maze'".

It seems like Nagahide had a deep understanding of Chinese ancient literature.

"Finally the trap devised by Zhuge Liang whose intelligence is at 100 points has appeared. No matter what, Takenaka Hanbei is being known as the current Zhuge Liang," Sagara said.

"Hime, if this goes on, I'm afraid that the enemy will divert the river to this stone maze and drown our whole army. 0 points."

"Manchiyo, do you know where is the exit?"

"This stone tower maze seems to be built under the theory of the 8 trigrams. There should be The Gate of Opening (開門, Kaimon), The Gate of Healing (休門, Kyūmon), The Gate of Life (生門, Seimon), The Gate of Pain (傷門, Shōmon), The Gate of Limit (杜門, Tomon), The Gate of Insight (景門, Keimon), The Gate of Wonder (驚門, Kyōmon), and The Gate of Death (死門, Shimon): a total of 8 gates."

"The 8 trigrams?"

"It's one of the theories of war, and the foundation behind our country's onmyoudou."

"Hur. In other words, it's a demon art too... That Takenaka Hanbei is getting on my nerves more and more."

"Out of these 8 gates, it is said that passing through the Limit and Death gate will result in certain death. It seems like we have walked through the Gate of Death."

"What death? This kind of thing is only superstition! No matter what, we should follow the wall and find a way out....."

Swooosh...

Even before the voice of Nobuna faded, a sudden flood appeared in front of their eyes and put them waist deep in water.

"What? What the hell is this!?"

"The water from the river has been directed over here, our army's situation is just 1 point."

And it looks like the water level was still rising. If this went on, it was certain that they would drown.

Though Sagara was anxious too, he couldn't find a way to escape. Who would have thought that the legendary trap that Zhuge Liang devised would be used so perfectly here by Takenaka Hanbei!

(I remember in the romance of three kingdoms, Lu Xun who was trapped in this stone maze was also faced with an impending flood. During that time, either Zhuge Liang's uncle or grandfather tells him the way to escape.....)

If Takenaka Hanbei's uncle or grandfather could come and tell the enemy, Nobuna, the way to escape from here... That kind of thing will never happen, I guess.

Oh ya, I should rely on ninjas in this kind of situation.

Throwing smoke bombs and using kage bunshin no jutsu, no matter what, the real magicians in the Sengoku era are the ninjas!

If it's Goemon, there should be a way out!

"Go...Go...Go...Goemon! You understand things like onmyoudou and the 8 triagrams, right?"

Goemon poked her head out from one of the stone towers and said, "I'm just a ninja~degozaru. The path of a ninja does not include these. In the end, it's just about the ways to strengthen one's heart."

"I don't understand a single thing from the extent of your stutter!"

"Uuuuu. In other words, the path of a ninja means to learn things from reality."

I get it, Yoshiharu nods. So as to say, though they sometimes use blinding techniques, the ninja is not an existence that transcends reality.

To create a smokescreen, you will need smoke grenades. Kage bunshin is actually a technique which uses high speed movements to create an illusion that there are more than one person. The shockingly powerful jumps of a ninja was also trained daily while strengthening their bodies, and as for the kunais that fly everywhere, the theory is the same as baseball, using the air's friction and gravity combined with throwing strength to create various throws. But in reality, Ninja don't ride on big toads.

As for those users who use techniques which completely defied logic and could never be explained by science, are those onmyoujis.

"Oi!!! If you have guts, stop using these devious traps and come out here! That Takenaka! If you have the skills, fight me fairly with a bamboo spear!!!" Katsuie shouted loudly with a face full of tears, but Yoshiharu felt that it would be stupid of Hanbei to come out.

"Use your brain and think, Katsuie. If the opponent is someone who can win against you with a spear, is there a need for her to be an onmyouji?"

"Shut up! I can never accept those kind of ridiculous people."

"Onee-sama! Things have come to such a situation, its all because of the uselessness of me as a vanguard. The fault totally lies with me, Nobukatsu! Allow me to commit senpuku and atone..."

"Stop, Kanjuurou. What will committing senpuku solve?"

"But compared to senpuku, drowning is much more painful, Onee-sama! Uwaaaa~!"

As everyone is panicking, the water levels are rising fast.

"Everyone, stop panicking! If you want to hate, hate Takenaka Hanbei for not choosing to follow the Viper and instead chose that short idiot! Because of her, we can't reach our target, Inabayama castle and have to struggle here."

Once again, while grinding her teeth in humiliation, she encouraged her aides. Compared to the previous ambush, this time they were trapped in this rock maze, the real fight had not even begun.

"No matter what, we must go back to Aoshuu alive!"

"We can't hold on anymore, Onee-sama!"

"If I...I...I...I was not that stupid, things would have been better! I'm really sorry, Hime-sama!"

"Everyone, listen! If we can beat Hanbei, we will arrange a feast to celebrate! And if we can conquer Inabayama castle, no matter what it is, I will reward you guys! Any request is ok!"

"Three year supply of Uiroumochi....." Inuchiyo starts to drool.

Wait, any request can be fulfilled? Sagara's eyes started to sparkle with anticipation. "Is what you said true?"

"That's rude, Saru, as a samurai, I won't go back on my words."

"Don't tell me it's because we are going to die here, so while feeling suicidal, you'll agree to anything?!"

"Though I do not want to admit, I can never beat such an opponent who is so unpredictable! What is this "Stone Sentinel Maze"! Like what Viper said, this is the worst kind of enemy to me who follows normal logic."

"Hime, even onmyoudou have their own set of rules and logic. Of course, this logic is different from the logic we know, but saying it is illogical is just an act of running away from the truth."

"Manchiyo, this kind of military lesson, wait until we are back in Aoshuu and you can be fussy with me!"

Ok! Sagara rolled up his sleeves. "No matter what, I will bring all of you back to Aoshuu! The reward, I can get whatever I want! Remember your promise, Hime-sama!"

Yoshiharu's motivation shot up like a rocket launching into the sky.

As the saying goes, a man driven to desperation can do anything. All of a sudden, Yoshiharu thought of an idea.

Yoshiharu couldn't help but scream in his heart, "There is no need for any exit! It's because we follow logic that we lose! We should follow our own ways now!"

"Hurry up, start to dig, Goemon! Push down these stone towers, use them as stepping stones."

"I get it~nya. You want to break out of this maze by pushing down the towers~nya."

Goemon stutters right after she opens her mouth. Looks like she is getting anxious too.

"Yes! Though I do not understand the logic behind the stone sentinel maze, if we destroy the maze itself, we should be able to walk out of it! And while doing that, we can use the stones as stepping stones to prevent any danger of drowning!"

"Sagara-dono, though it is shockingly simple, but to think that you can think of a loophole from the traps of Hanbei, 85 points."

Nagahide nods and agrees, and Katsuie at the side pulls out her katana.

"Not using your brain and just destroy everything, right? Leave it to me!"

~Destructive noises~

Katsuie's sword destroyed all of the stone towers as easily as striking down a bowling pin. Looking at Katsuie who had taken the form of Ashura,

the soldiers at the side started to use their spears and work on the stone towers too.

Inuchiyo, while whispering ".....feeling better", took out her own spear too.

Looking at her subordinates suddenly acting in cohesion, Nobuna was surprised. "Just because you can't find the exit, you destroy the maze. What a ridiculous strategy."

Just like the famous riddle "Stand the egg up", Columbus gave a shocking answer "Crack the bottom of the egg". Though Yoshiharu's way is a bit cunning, it does have a curious similarity to him. Totally ignoring the questioner's objectives and correct answer, using brute force to force a way out, it can be considered a groundbreaking solution too.

It's like losing in a game of chess, yet overturning the whole chessboard, a totally ridiculous way of doing things. As expected of a guy who follows his own rules.

On the other hand, though Nobuna said she did not believe in things like onmyoudou, she unwittingly wanted to pit her own intelligence with Hanbei. Because of this, she continued to find an exit to the stone sentinel maze, while totally forgetting about the solution of just destroying the maze itself.

While having the face of "0^0", Nobuna stood on the stepping stone that Katsuie destroyed and said, "Don't...Don't let this get over your head, Saru! In the end, the reward can only be given to you once you conquer Inabayama castle! Something small like this is nothing."

Helping Goemon push down the stone towers, full of dirt but with an expression full of motivation, Yoshiharu interrupted her and said, "You are really not cute at all! Will you die just to show a bit of gratitude towards my plan!?"

"Che... This isn't human knowledge! This is knowledge from a monkey who has given up on logical thinking! And no matter what, you haven't found a way out, isn't it?"

"Noisy! Listen, I will definitely conquer Inabayama castle for you to see! And once I do it, don't you forget about that promise of "any request will be fulfilled"!"

"Eh?.....I...I got it already."

"No matter if it's conquering the world, or marrying the man you love, I will not give up! I will definitely fulfill them for you!"

Yoshiharu, who was shouting "Don't forget the reward", his eyes were filled with dazzling motivation. Nobuna, noticing this and getting affected by this aura he was emitting, started blushing furiously. Towards Nagamasa's marriage with Nobuna, Sagara had never spoke a word about it. But Nobuna finally understood deeply that Sagara was in fact anxious that he did not have any achievement yet.

After destroying the stone maze completely, the exit finally appeared in front of the nearly drowned Oda's army. While on the route back to Aoshuu, Nobuna, on horseback, started whispering to herself, ".....What if.....What if that Saru wants me as a reward....."

"If it's like that, what should I do?"

"The words have been spoken, the promise can no longer be retracted. But no matter what, our status are too different.....If Saru really conquers Inabayama Castle, how about promoting him to a general..... but in the end, that's still an adviser. An...And, compared to this guy who came from nowhere, being the same monkey, compared to Saruyashamaru, Asai Nagamasa, they are like heaven and earth, there is not much of a possibility....."

"But...But that guy seems unexpectedly reliable..... And he saved my life numerous times..... Th...That guy's dream is to do ecchi things with the world's number one bishoujo, so as to say..... Ahhhhh... Why must I think of such a thing!?"

Nobuna thought "This isn't good", and started to regret her promise of a reward and started panicking while blushing. In the back, Katsuie shouted, "Whose achievement will be the biggest?", and Sagara, while unwillingly starting to perform a comedy skit, did not notice Nobuna's expression at all.

Once again they returned to Aoshuu, and early next morning, Nobuna summoned her two most trusted advisers, Shibata Katsuie and Niwa Nagahide.

"Uuuu, why must Hime-sama find us to talk about Yoshiharu's matters?"

"Hime-sama is so attracted to that damn Saru and keeps siding him on matters. Damn..." Katsuie's rage towards Yoshiharu seemed to increase day by day.

"So, what did you guys quarrel about today?"

On the other side, though Nagahide admitted that she did not have the weird thinking patterns of Nobuna and Yoshiharu, her presence as someone highly intelligent was reliable to Nobuna.

"Not really quarreling..... That guy arrogantly asked me not to forget about the reward after conquering Mino."

"I understand. Previously, as part of the promise to give him the number one bishoujo of the world, you gave the young Nene to Sagara. Though it's a good thing that the lonely Yoshiharu has obtained a cute sister, but no matter how people see it, it's a clear act of deceit. 13 points."

"That's the thing.... That's why he is now pestering me to reward him properly, how irritating."

"Haha, is he still bent on having the number one bishoujo of the world?"

Nobuna's face was painted with a light shade of pink, while saying in low voice, ".....I don't know already.....It might be that Saru.....is actually proposing to me."

"Eh?"

cough Nagahide, who is usually calm, spat the tea out of her mouth together with Katsuie.

"Ah, how rude of me. But no matter what, this kind of reward is too ridiculous. Hime is the one and only leader of the Oda clan, and Yoshiharu is Hime's advisor who previously was just an unknown vagrant. There is no chance of being together. 0 points."

"Th...Th...That ero-saru! He finally revealed his true motive to capture the Oda clan! What a bastard, looks like I have to kill you with my own hands!"

"Wait, Riku. This is just a possibility. I'm just thinking if that was the case."

"Hime, what kind of proof do you have to think this of Sagara-dono?"

"Yeah, Hime-sama. What makes you so mindful of that damn Saru's ambitions?"

そ、それって、もしかしたら私に『俺の嫁になれ』って
言ってるんじゃないかしら……なんて……



Nobuna used her finger on the tatami and started drawing circles, while stuttering, ".....er....That...That marriage between me and Nagamasa, he does not seem to agree with it. And Saru, that guy, though he is full of things like "I'm not cute at all and violent too", but he did do his best all the time right? And.....he did put on airs and said "No matter if it's conquering the world, or marrying the man you love, I will definitely fulfill them for you!" so...so as to say, he might be implying to me "Be my bride!".....things like that..... If...If things really become like that, I had already promised to give him anything he wants. I can't escape this time. If...If Saru really conquered Mino this time, we...we...we can't do anything about it.....Er... And a sa...samurai does not go back on his words!"

"Hime-sama, this is no longer asking to punish Sagara-dono for his disrespectful attitude already. It's just normal sweet talking that couples do. 12 points."

Shibata Katsuie started to tremble with anger, the veins in her forehead were almost stressed to the point of breaking. She stood up while drawing her sword, "Un...Un...Unforgivable! He actually da...da...dared to let Nobuna-sama display such an act of helplessness....."

".....It...It has not been decided if it's really a proposal, Riku! In the end, I'm just troubled....."

"Damn Saru, you actually plan to snatch away the invincible, but yet to fall in love, Hime-sama's heart!? Compared to Nagamasa, this bastard is actually more dangerous! Let's kill him now!"

"Gosh, I already said not to kill my saru without reason, right?"

"Correct, Riku-dono. Sagara-dono's already an officer now, an act of killing him without a reason is not permitted."

".....My.....'My Saru'? The relationship between the two of you had advance to such a stage.....? Ahhhhhhhh! I can't take it, I should just go and die now!"

"Eh? What are you saying, Riku?"

Nobuna's face was full of a young girl's fantasy who is in love, but the situation did not develop in the direction where she was fantasizing.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

Note from Translator: This is a rough translation from the Chinese raws we have. It is still under work and there will be lots of edits in the near future as I care more about bringing to readers the story rather than the correct use of vocab and grammar. If any readers have inputs and want to edit, please do so.

~Tarmade~

Chapter 3 : Battle for the right to obtain Takenaka Hanbei!

For Humans, there is this term known as "friendship"---This philosophy exists in the Sengoku era as well. As for Nobuna, who is a realistic person, the onmyouji, Takenaka Hanbei, is a great headache to her.

Hence, as long as the onmyouji adviser, Takenaka Hanbei is still guarding Mino, Nobuna will be unable to conquer Inabayama Castle.

If this situation continues to persist, then Nobuna will have no choice but to bow her head and accept Asai Nagamasa's marriage proposal for reinforcements. And if things become like that, then no matter how Nobuna tries to conquer the world, the conquered lands and their rewards will all be the property of Nagamasa.

However, should Nobuna capture Mino on her own, Owari's Oda Clan combined forces would have surpassed Asai Nagamasa's forces in Northern Omi. If that's the case, even if Nobuna refused Nagamasa's marriage proposal, an alliance between Owari and Northern Omi on equal footing would still be possible.

It is precisely because of this reason, the reward that Yoshiharu wants at all costs is:

"The cancellation of the marriage between Nagamasa and Nobuna".

That is all there is to it.

No matter how large the compromise one has to make to conquer the world, Yoshiharu does not want Nobuna to marry someone who doesn't love her at all.

I wish that idiot Nobuna could live freely according to her ideals, no matter the time and place. Not just as a Sengoku Daimiyo, Oda Nobuna herself needs to pursue her dreams, but even more so, she needs to pursue her happiness as an ordinary girl. If not, the Nobuna we see now will no longer be Nobuna anymore.

Though that pretty face Nagamasa said that "There should be a limit for selfishness. In the end, you are just a brat with no sense of responsibility." Sagara had scoffed at that and said, "I don't mind being the brat, I don't

mind giving dumb opinions, but right now, my feelings are clear, and I will always believe that."

"Even if Nobuna hates me or called me a reckless idiot, I will definitely stop this omiai^[5] by any means necessary. Just you watch!"

"....Inuchiyo was thinking the exact same thing."

"Our current objective is to find ways to get close to Hanbei and persuade her to join the Oda clan. To put it simply, it's the pull-outstanding-talents-like her-over plan. The so called 'Head-hunting'!"

"....Good luck."

That's all for recaps.

The place is Mino, Kinkazan, located at the foot of Inabayama, part of Inokuchi.

Yoshiharu, together with Inuchiyo, dressed as vagrants snuck into the town.

In fact, Nobuna had not granted permission for this mission, the aim was to win over the genius tactician Takenaka Hanbei.

Yoshiharu did not want to waste his time by suggesting it to Nobuna obediently "How about convincing Hanbei to join us?", and another reason was what if Nobuna answered "No way. It's impossible for a monkey like you to try and sow discord between them" and tried to stop them, making things complicated instead.

The reason why Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo managed to reach Inokuchi is ultimately thanks to Goemon and her Kawanami clan members' aid.

This happy-go-lucky Saru-Inu duo, after going into the town, the first thing they did was to patronize the teashop called "Ayu-ya" by the Nagawagara River.

Just as Goemon's report said, the shop, Ayu-ya here is having a Takenaka clan recruitment exercise and at the moment, it is in full-swing.

Finally, it's almost time for Takenaka Hanbei to move to Inabayama Castle to officially take up her role within the Saitou Clan. During this, she will definitely bring along her retainers and is planning to recruit some more too.

"After dressing up like a vagrant and becoming one of Takenaka Hanbei's retainers, I will use my fiery passion and speech to convince her to join the Oda Clan. So perfect, it's really a flawless plan!"

"....Inuchiyo, we don't have extra cash to go to tea shops."

"Leave that to me!"

Yoshiharu's monthly wage was 33 kan.

Although such a shabby wage is fitting for an officer like Yoshiharu, the other reason is also because Nobuna is notorious for her stinginess.

However, the Yoshiharu being experienced in Sengoku game of course had his own way of getting money. The reward for asking Goemon to sell rice in various places made the pockets of Yoshiharu deep.

Originally, if an individual wanted to do business outside of Owari, the person has to pay a sum of money (tax) at the border.

An example is if one wants to transport rice from Owari to Mino, in order to pass through the border, the person has to pay a certain amount of taxes to Saitou Yoshitatsu's side.

The only Daimyos in the Tokaido area who made an effort to develop commerce and abolished this tax system are the lord of Mino, Saitou Dousan (in the past) and the current master of Owari, Oda Nobuna.

Most other Daimyos still use the taxes from the borders as a main source of income.

Also, since the taxation cost isn't cheap, originally, no matter how one looked at it, this kind of re-selling behavior would not be profitable at all.

But the Kanawanami gang aren't ordinary decent law-abiding merchants. They would never even think of going through the border gate but chose to sneak in using routes that only ninjas and bandits know of; they never once paid taxes.

Using this method, Yoshiharu managed to earn a small fortune by smuggling rice.

Looking at this way, the innocent Inuchiyo had suffered starvation. After being exiled by the Oda Clan, Inuchiyo escaped to the mountains alone. Thus to fill her stomach during her journey, she became unknowingly wild.

The reason why Inuchiyo has a flat, washboard-like body, is probably due to the protein lacking fiveleaf aralia soup..... After thinking that, Yoshiharu went "Uuuu what a poor thing", and cried despite Inuchiyo using all her might to pinch his cheeks with a radiant smile on her face.

For the reasons above, Yoshiharu managed to surpass the crowd of poor ronins and gain the top position in the Takenaka clan.

If we were generous enough, this interview will definitely leave a good impression on them.

Since it is an interview, Hanbei might just be observing the ronins from an unknown corner, so one needs to eat lavishly to get his attention.

"Alright, Inuchiyo! Don't hold back today, eat all you want until your belly bursts!"

"....the money for the food, it doesn't matter?"

"I'll handle it, Wahahahaha. Although we cannot enjoy to our heart's content in Kiyosu, I do however, have my personal stash of extra money, but keep it a secret from Nobuna."

".....Stolen.....?"

"No! I earned it all from actual business transactions! I just snuck past the borders!"

Inuchiyo suddenly readied her spear.

".....Trafficking from the borders is illegal."

"Wait! Wait! I only bypass the borders from the enemy! Nobuna, that idiot, doesn't take border taxes!"

".....I'll let you off this time." Inuchiyo returned to her seat.

"Eat more, Inuchiyo, and then let your breasts grow as big as Katsuie! If you want your boobies to be bigger, you have to stop having that non-nutritious fiveleaf aralia soup and try to gain more protein and fat!"

".....Kankaku^[6]Death....?"

"No, No. I mean that if you ate more meat, fish, and drank more milk, your bust size will one day grow by leaps and bounds!"

".....Lies. Things like milk, I'm not drinking it. Yoshiharu, you are teasing me."

"Wrong, wrong, wrong. In my world, it's a trend for girls to drink milk. That is why their breasts are all very well developed."

".....Milk....Stinks....."

Inuchiyo was feeling conflicted. If drinking milk will make her breasts as big as Katsuie then.....but milk stinks a lot.....And besides, milk are for babies and children...And Inuchiyo is not a baby anymore....Ahah, but Inuchiyo's flat as a wash board breasts doesn't seem to differ from most children.

The maiden is struggling and shaking between desire and anxiety. But to normal people's eyes, Inuchiyo seems to be just sitting there motionlessly.

"Alright alright, just eat some fish first."

While looking at their table gradually filling up with Inokuchi's specialty, Inuchiyo's stomach begins to grumble honestly.

".....Itadakimasu."

"Since that devil Nobuna is not here today, let us enjoy it to the fullest! Wahahahaha!"

"....Delicious. Uuu~Uuu~"

Kacha Kacha Kacha Kacha.

It is unknown if it is due to the desire of having more fish to eat or due to the desire to have bigger breasts by having more nutrients, Inuchiyo ate every single fish from head to tail.

Maeda Toshiie (Inuchiyo)

Even though she is usually the silent type, she can be rather gluttonous when food is involved.

"....Hoooo....Ahhh.....fish. Yummy."

"You know, you sure got this cheerful look when you eat. Now I more or less understand your feelings when Nobuna feeds you those uirou-mochi."

".....Jue~Jue~" *chewing sounds*

"Here, here, here, Inuchiyo~ I got some delicious fish here~"



"...Ah Ump." *Eating sounds*

"I caught an Inuchiyo!" Yoshiharu laughs.

"Let's do it once more~"

".....Ah~"

"Just joking. Now is not the time to eat." Yoshiharu took away the fish that was dangling in front of Inuchiyo's mouth.

".....ha-wu, ha-wu, ha-wu !"

Inuchiyo's mouth was opening and closing like that of a goldfish, chasing the fish in front of her eyes.

"——This is simply too fun!"

".....angry...."

"Pinch"——The burning sensation on Yoshiharu's cheeks finally brought him back to his senses.

".....Instead of having the energy to feed Inuchiyo, why don't you think about how to get chosen?"

"Oh, right right right!"

Speaking of which, where is the interview being held at....Just when I was about to stand up and look around, an old stranger suddenly approached and greeted us.

His attire and grooming seems pretty formal. It seems that he's a pretty influential warrior in Mino.

Although he has an aloof face, it seems like he does not have any ill intentions toward Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo. Add that he has a hunched back and a friendly attitude, but somehow, he gave off a feeling that he was being modest about his skills.

But he does give off a rather mysterious feel.

"Youngster, you're here to serve Takenaka Hanbei, right?"

"You're right, Oji-san. I am the world's most ordinary ronin——Sagara Yoshiharu. And this is my younger brother, Inuchiyo. Do you know a lot about Takenaka Hanbei? "

"...younger sister, Inuchiyo."

"No one knows him more than I do."

"...Younger•Sister•Inu•chi•yo."

The old man accepted Inuchiyo's dishes and started eating while talking.

"I am Takenaka Shigetora——Hanbei's Uncle. To Hanbei whose parents' died young, I am like a parent and have seen her grow up since she was young."

"Oh? So you must be a rather powerful warrior, right?"

"I'm called Ando of the Iga Keep, head of the Mino Three. I used to serve the Saitou Clan as one of the aides. I've since retired despite all that, I was once Dousan's right-hand man. Now that Yoshitatsu-dono is in power, my position in the Saitou clan is non-existent. Still, it's a good thing that there is someone like Hanbei in our family."

But Hanbei isn't passionate enough to carve out a career and instead wants to live a peaceful life...

"So you want to say for the reputation of the clan, you need Hanbei to succeed in life."

"Hanbei is one of best onmyouji in Japan, but because of this, 'in terms of military prowess, she is even better than her lord, Saitou Yoshitatsu.' How can we keep an aide with unknown powers?" --- Such suspicions are not unheard of in the Saitou clan.

"In addition, because I used to be known as "The Viper's Right-Hand", I'm now known as "unpredictable" so trust has become an issue."

Occasionally, there were rumors that I was using Hanbei's strength to capture Mino too.

"What? Aren't half of Hanbei's bad rumors being caused by you!?"

"Indeed. Tomorrow, that child will move out to Inabayama for the first time. But because of the situation, I do not have retainers to serve her, even her steed is but a weak, old, horse. Because of all that has happened, all the more reason why she should not be belittled, she must look decent and dignified at the very least, and have elite warriors there to protect her at all times..."

"So that's why you're in such a hurry to find retainers, isn't it, Oji-san?"

"Indeed. Hopefully, we can find a hero who despite any circumstances will not hesitate to cut Yoshitatsu down."

"Oji-san, this kind of dangerous speech is what that caused you to be known as an unpredictable terrorist, isn't it?"

"In the end, it's just a precaution. But..... You Owari warriors, I can't help but worry about your skills with the arquebus."

Yoshiharu's chopsticks fell on the floor.

"How did you know that we are from Owari?"

"That arquebus and your clothes are both not products of Mino. It is obvious you two are from Owari."

"What good eyes you have, Oji-san. I guess the interview is hopeless now, right?"

"Nope. I'll choose both of you then."

"For real?"

"I'm very interested in the way you guys spent money. Although strength is important, but the power of money cannot be underestimated either. Dousan-dono had been emphasizing that a country's life or death will be decided by money."

Even though we had yet to see Hanbei, it seemed like this Ando Iga already decided to employ us in this tea shop.

"Well then, let me take you to Hanbei."

Somehow or rather becoming Hanbei's retainers, the two of them were led by Ando Iga towards Hanbei's room which was deep inside.

"Odd. Isn't this plan going way too smoothly? This Ando-oji-san might have already figured out that we're under Nobuna?"

Is it a trap or does he plan to ally with both the Oda clan and the Saitou clan? No matter which is it, as of now, there is totally nothing to talk about if we are unable to negotiate with Hanbei directly.

Inuchiyo gently pulled Yoshiharu's sleeve, her expression full of "...weird".

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Let's go, Inuchiyo."

After gently ushering Inuchiyo by patting her butt, they proceeded in.

Inside the house—— A handsome young merchant was sitting there in seiza position.

"Hmm, why do I feel like I've seen this face before?"

"What! Asai Nagamasa?!"

"You damned saru?! Why are you here!?"

No one predicted that these two Saru, one from Owari, the other from Omi, would meet each other here.

"Wah Wah, this is bad," Inuchiyo exclaimed while munching on her food.

"I...I escaped from the Oda clan and am ready to serve the Hanbei-dono today! With this, I can finally say goodbye to the days in which Nobuna the idiotic princess kept threatening to chop my head off or use her sandals to stomp on my face! Hehe~!"

"I see... By the way, I am not Asai Nagamasa. I'm just an ordinary merchant of the Masuichi clan from Omi, "Saruyashamaru". Our clan makes a living by selling medicine and was able to save up a bit. But now my brothers have all left home finding their own way of life and as the eldest son, I have decided to serve Takenaka-sama."

"Liar. You think you're Mitoki Komon^[7]? And all that rubbish about selling medicine for a living. You're just Asai Nagamasa, right!?"

"I am not this Asai person. You must be mistaken."

"Like hell it is! If not, how could a merchant from Omi recognize my face?!"

"How could I not know you. The rumor about the exotic monkey 'Sagara' in Owari has long since traveled far and wide."

"Tch! Go on and spread your lies then!"

Ando Iga, noticing the situation, quickly pulled Yoshiharu and Nagamasa who were almost fighting, and said, "The wealthy Saruyashamaru-sama and the extravagant Owari ronin, Yoshiharu-dono and Inuchiyo-dono, I had decided to let you three serve under Hanbei together."

"Wait a minute Oji-san! You're definitely picking the candidates by wealth! From the start, all you've been talking about is money!

".....You're thinking too much."

"And that guy over there is the Omi daimyo, Asai Nagamasa! This bastard is full of malicious plans, even now god knows what he is thinking up! How can you hire such a person!?"

Asai Nagamasa merely laughed.

"Where's the proof? In fact, isn't you who is saying that you are running away from the Oda clan the real lie? How are you going to prove that you are in fact not under Nobuna's orders to assassinate Hanbei-sama, Saru-dono"

"Che~! You scumbag! Nobuna would never use such an underhanded method like assassination!"

"Who knows? Hanbei-sama's tactics seems to be giving Nobuna-dono a big headache. That's why she might be pushed into a corner by the marriage with the Asai clan and choose an assassination plan."

POW!

Without noticing his rage meter has exploded, Yoshiharu lashed out his fist towards the leering Nagamasa, but the latter easily dodged that and the punch goes straight through the pillar instead.

"Ahhhh! My Fist! My Fist!!! AHHHHHHH!"

".....Yoshiharu. Relax."

"Now, let me chase away these poor ronins. These poor people who just know how to eat has totally no worth in employing them. Just wait for a while, Hanbei will be here soon."

It seems like Ando Iga did not really care about the fuss in the house and started to walk towards the corridor.

"Oh yeah. If you guys treasure your life, don't ever anger Hanbei, otherwise even I cannot guarantee your life and safety."

It's almost as if he totally didn't care about the fact that Saruyashamaru was Asai Nagamasa; it was more like he actually welcomed the fact.

"I really don't understand that old man... As if the Oda clan and the Saito clan is not enough, he is even adding the Asai clan into the mix. Don't tell me he is really planning to sell Hanbei to the highest bidder!?"

"...Our mutual poking of each other intentions ends here, Saru."
Nagamasa whispered over.

This bastard, even though he's obviously male, how could his body emit out such a fragrance? He must have been wearing women's clothing and used aromatic oil in the process.

Hmph. No matter what, he is an obstacle to my great 'Harem Plan'.
Yoshiharu unconsciously let out a "Tch".

"Saru, our objectives are the same, right? Both of us wanna pull Hanbei over... So instead of fighting each other, why don't we just play our role as the Omi merchant and the Owari ronin?"

"Nagamasa, for someone of your caliber, that's not a bad idea. I guess I'll just follow that then....However, I'll be the one to win Hanbei over! Speaking of which, you have to lower yourself this level just to conquer Owari before Nobuna? Now that's rather shallow of you."

"For someone like me, towards the cities or women that I've aim for, I will definitely conquer them. From this point, Nobuna-dono is no exception. Instead of letting some dirty monkey who can only do stupid things to delay the marriage, she can just hide behind me and live a more comfortable life."

"Inuchiyo, lend me your spear. I think I should just pierce this bastard to death right here."

".....Yoshiharu. Be tolerant here."

Just as the three were staring at each other and quarreling,

"Nice to meet you. I am... Takenaka Hanbei Shigetora."

Just when did this person appear in front of us?

In the middle of the room and in the seat, a pale and tall man was lying motionlessly there.

"WAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!! That scared me !!!"

"Even I was unable to detect this person... When did he get here?"

".....I was careless."

Takenaka Hanbei finally appeared.

Generally, there isn't much difference in his looks compared to the Sengoku games.

As for the age, he should be around 30 years old.

Those eyes that looked like a fox really goes well with the whole onmyouji look as well.

With his skin being snow white, the light yellow silk shirt wrapping around his thin build while he wear a stole.

Under the body, there were two horned Yano Kabuto^[8].

That is the helmet of a military adviser——Takenaka Hanbei's trademark armor.

Even being surrounded by the trio (Yoshiharu, Inuchiyo and Nagamasa), Hanbei did not look concerned and continued to stay in his sleeping position.

"My name is Sagara Yoshiharu. The one with a tiger skin on his head is my younger brother, Inuchiyo."

".....YOUNGER•SISTER•INUCHIYO..."

"I am the heir to my clan in Omi, Saruyashamaru. However..... my sources told me that Hanbei-sama is female..."

"Mhmm mhmm mhmm. Just as you see, I'm just a handsome young man, though I'm not as young as you three. It seems that I've disappointed you, Asai Nagamasa-dono."

"Argh. I'm exposed from the start, huh?"

Nagamasa gnashed his teeth. He must have thought that with his looks, he would be able to charm Hanbei. Which is why he did not hesitate to come personally to Mino's Inokuchi in the first place.

However, there is another man who is grinding his teeth as well.

"Grrrr! I get it now Nagamasa! You must always be visiting other clans and seducing the women of the family to expand your territory, isn't it!?"

"Not Nagamasa but Saruyashamaru. I did not lie or trick anyone. Any girl under my embrace is going to feel happy and blissful——Don't place me in the same category as some monkey who will be beheaded for even fantasizing about hugging Nobuna-dono."

"Shut up you bastard! If you dare hug Nobuna, I'll be the first to kill you!"

"And besides, any woman that I kiss will drift to paradise."

"Inuchiyo, lend me your spear! If I don't fight it out with this bastard, I'm not Sagara!"

"Can you people pause your little dispute over Nobuna somewhere else on a later date?" Hanbei, who's still lying down said.

Although he had entered very elegantly, it looked like this person is just plain lazy.

"You're right, Hanbei. But before talking, can you get up first?"

"I'll be ok lying down. Standing up is such a hassle and besides, this position is good for my health."

"Why does this guy sound like some pretty face character from a BL game?" Yoshiharu cannot help but mutter it out.

Nagamasa observed the situation in silence and sat down quietly in a corner. It is possible that he is thinking of another way to win over Hanbei.

"My three guests, thanks for not minding the long distance and venturing all the way here to Inokuchi, why don't you guys relax and have some tea first?"

Hanbei clapped his hands with difficulty and a beautiful villager came into the room, and placed a plate full of dango in front of the trio. A pair of wolf-like ears can be seen with a flick of her head.

"Woah...that wolf-eared girl sure is cute."

".....(anger) Compared to wolves, dogs are definitely cuter."

"That child is my Shikigami^[9], 'Goki'."

"Shikigami? You mean the legendary Shikigami that Abe no Seimei uses?"

"Precisely. To be able to know our ancestor, Seimei-sama's history, Sagara-sama sure is full of surprises."

"Haha... It's just that Abe no Seimei is a very popular subject in my world."

Upon closer inspection, the dangos that was served by the girl has a thick layer of something on it: Hatcho Miso.

In addition, the cups were filled with hot simmering tea, it seems delicious.

"This is my favorite snack, Hidan's special dango. Hidan's rice doesn't taste good so it is turned into dangos. It is very popular in Mino as well," Hanbei proudly told the trio.

"And Inabayama castle is a place where it is hard to get fresh water. In order to conserve water during a siege, instead of cooking rice, we use rice by molding them into dangos, that's our way of storing food."

"Man...the way you say it makes me real thirsty! Itadakimasu!"

".....Dango...looks good. I'll try."

The beautiful girl had retreated from the room without a word, Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo became engrossed with the tea and dango not unlike ants on sweets.

As someone who despises Miso added dishes, Nagamasa said "Miso dangos are a bit....." and started to frown. Why do people like to add such bitter tasting miso to these sweet dangos, totally incomprehensible.

"Nagamasa, come and eat a few too! It's so tasty, simply delicious! This tea too, though it's a bit hot, the heat is totally fitting to a stomach that was just filled with lunch!"

"....Ya, Ya. Miso-dangos, though a little bitter, it's tasty!"

Though people are saying that Takenaka Hanbei a famous weirdo who looked like a fox on first glance, he seemed like a nice fellow. If I suggest straight out to him to join the Oda clan, he might just agree to it.

Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo nodded with a silly smiling face.

But...

"Gahahahahahaha!"

As Yoshiharu who was shouting "Tasty, tasty!" and kept refilling his cup, and Inuchiyo who was stuffing her face full of dangos, were looking at each other while smiling silly, Hanbei broke into an uncontrollable laughing fit.

Suddenly, his face broke into pieces, and his mouth widened like a demon.

Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo, including Nagamasa's brain couldn't keep up with the development.

"Hahahaha, and I was expecting something more from the Owari warriors who broke through my "Ambush from all sides" and "Stone Sentinel Maze", in the end they fell for such a low level prank, how dumb is this! Hohoho!"

"Oi, Hanbei's face changed into a fox totally? Inuchiyo, how scary!"

"....."

While they regained their senses, Hanbei totally changed into a fox. His face had already grown a mustache, grew a tail. From his half opened mouth, one can see some sharp fangs.

Somehow or rather, the two had already hugged each other in fear.

"Demons!"

Nagamasa unsheathe his sword from his waist in reflex.

"Prprprprprprprprprprank? Do-do-do-don't tell me that tea and dango is poisoned?"

"....Now that you mentioned it.....My stomach...hurts...Yoshiharu!"

"Me too, I feel disgusted somehow.....! And my mouth has a weird taste.....!"

"It's just a prank, no poisons involved."

The fox-Hanbei laughed and stood up.

"It's just an illusion from the Onmyoudou, what you guys just drank is actually horse piss. As for the "miso" on the dango, those were horse dung."

(*Cough*)

"*Retching noises*~! What the hell did you just let us drink?!"

".....eaten too much.....Inuchiyo should just commit seppuku and die."

"Calm down, Inuchiyo. Now is not the time to commit seppuku but to vomit out all the dangos."

".....such humiliation, how can I live and go back to see Hime-sama?"

"Keep calm and avoid indirect kisses with Nobuna temporarily."

"*Retching noises*.... No, I can't vomit it out."

"Good.....It's a good thing I did not eat the dangos...." The visibly shaken Nagamasa let out a cry of relief in his heart.

"Hohohoho."

"You dare do such a thing! Now I'm angry!"

With an unconcerned face, the fox-Hanbei suddenly sneered with an unbelievably long tongue and said, "Oh, coming here to pull my master to your clans, and now you want to kill me? Don't make me laugh."

"Che....."

"Sagara Yoshiharu, Asai Nagamasa. If you guys can finish up these shit dango and beg me, leaving the Saitou clan to your side is still a possibility. What do you guys think?"

Nagamasa started to stutter and mumble.

"I...I...I...I... er... Hmmm.... If I eat those, both Nobuna and Owari will be mine. But..... I hate miso.....this is too....."

"But wait. Both Miso and horse dung are similar in the way they ferment. So as to say, even though they are rotten, people can still eat them. The difference is only the timing they rot. If I think of it from this way..... How the hell can they be the same!!! I...I...I.....Hmmmmmm..."

Nagamasa looked at the bunch of shit dango and perspires profusely, while falling into a loop of thoughts.

Yoshiharu was thinking while making retching noises.

"Since I have already eaten so much..... No giving up at this point..... B...but, I know it's shit now..... If I put it into my mouth, all is over.....!"

So now, who will be the one who agrees to eat these shit dangos for Nobuna?

The ultimate choice!

(*Sob....*)

"Hmph! How can I lose to the Owari Saru..... Here I go!"

For his own ambitions, the decided Nagamasa takes up the dangos and open his mouth!

Yoshiharu isn't hesitating and followed suit!

"Che! If I lose here, Nobuna will be marrying this bastard....."

Throwing away the honour of the samurai and the dignity of a man and eating these dangos, after that all we have to do is to kneel and beg this idiotic fox-Hanbei..... That's all, that's all to it.

(Forcing to eat shit by his opponent/demon and had to beg to him, what kind of a man is this!? But...But...But...If I don't do as he said, Nobuna will...Nobuna will...! Argh! I'm going all in!)

Inuchiyo who is looking at the hesitating Yoshiharu, grabbed her spear tightly, suddenly thrust her spear towards the chest of Hanbei.

".....Hya!"

(*Ka-chak!)

With a shrill scream, the fox Hanbei did some somersaults due to the spear thrusts and fell out the window.

"What have you done!" Throwing away the dango in his hand, Nagamasa rushed to the side of Fox-Hanbei.

"He...He's not breathing.....! You two, as expected, your motive is to assassinate Hanbei, right!?"

"No!"

"In-in-in-in-inuchiyo, you stabbed someone to death, what should we do now?!"

".....opponent is a demon.....and no matter how you think of Hime-sama, I do not want to see Yoshiharu eat shit-dango and lower his head to others."

"But.....!"

".....Yoshiharu"

"What?!"

"For a samurai, even if you lower your head to someone, you must always be clear of the situation. Even if you lower your head, you should not feel inferior, and you should never give up your dignity. If you break these two points, Yoshiharu isn't a samurai. The Yoshiharu now lost himself due to over-worrying for Hime-sama!"

The still red face Inuchiyo spewed out some rarely heard long sentences, and continued with another thrust at Hanbei.

"Though what you said is correct, from what I see, you're just fuming with anger over him who bluffed you into eating a big bunch of shit dangos, right?"

".....That's an illusion."

"And you specifically checked if he is dead or not, how deep is your hatred?!"

".....You're thinking too much."

"What to do now? We can't possibly run back to Nobuna now and tell her we disguised ourselves as ronin and killed Hanbei. Nobuna's reputation will drop to the ground..."

"Wa....Crap...."

"Though I do not need to eat those shit dangos because of you guys, it's a pity that I have seen everything. Allow me to tell all the provinces about this," Nagamasa said.

"Not good, Inuchiyo! Hurry, try and re... revive Ha...Ha...Hanbei!"

"Hey, Hanbei-dono. *Poke* *Poke* *Poke*"

.....

.....

.....

".....no reaction from poking. Just like a corpse."

"He is just...just...just faking sleep^[10]! How can an omnyouji like him die so easily?"

".....Fox, faking sleep. Masterpiece, hehehehe"

"Now is not the time to laugh!"

".....Yoshiharu, run away with Inuchiyo. How about going to Kyoto and doing gag shows?"

"Naive! You guys are underestimating Kyoto's gags! It's still 10 years too early!"

".....Wa....."

What should we do now.

Inuchiyo and Yoshiharu hugged each other and sat down in a daze.

Nagamasa said to himself "No, if this goes on, I will be counted as one of the culprits assassinating Hanbei!" and started to panic.

But just when the trio regained their senses, the corpse of Fox-Hanbei in front of them disappeared like a mirage. What remained was just a small flower, lying on the tatami.

"Ah, huh? What is going on, Inuchiyo? Where's Hanbei?"

".....strange. There are no blood traces on the tatami.

"Found him, here!"

The room has one more person!

Asai Nagamasa pulled out a dagger from his chest area gallantly and threw it to a pillar deep in the room.

".....Ah.....Please....Please, don't...don't...don't bully me....."

It seems like she is frightened stiff.

From the shadow of the pillar, a small girl is rolling over to the legs of Yoshiharu.

She is a girl even more delicate and petite than Inuchiyo.

Big black eyes, and long eyelashes, she's a young girl giving people "just like a small squirrel" feeling.

".....Please don't bully me.....sob, sob....."

Just as Yoshiharu reflexively said "It's ok, no one here will bully you", the small girl who is just crying pulled out the famed dagger "Toragozen" from her waist and swung it right between Yoshiharu's eyebrows.

With his dodging skills that can be compared to those in American spy movies, Yoshiharu managed to avoid it. But Yoshiharu couldn't stop but scream with fear, and his pants seem a bit wet.....

"Woahhhhhh?! Dangerous!!!!"

~Shiver~ The small girl in front of them rolled herself into a ball, her fear of them seems to have increased.

".....Sob...Sob...As...As expected, you people will bully me..... You guys will definitely bully me..... Sob...Sob....."

"Not at all, we won't bully you! So please stop with the sneak attacks!"

"Loud... Man with loud voices.... Terrifying, gonna... gonna get bullied..... Sob...Sob....."

"Ahhh, sorry about it, it's my fault. I'm not angry at all~ Will always stand by your side~ Don't be afraid, come, let me wipe your tears..... To prove that we are good, I'll return this dagger to you ~♥, hold on to it~♥. "

There is something creepy about Yoshiharu's tone, Inuchiyo narrowed her eyes.

"What is it about me that you don't like?"

".....You even prey on little children, not caring about the time and place."

"You think too much!"

".....Sob....Hanbei, 14 years old now....."

"See, Inuchiyo, Hanbei-chan is a grown-up lady^[11] here."

".....Lei....di....?"

"Sob.... Thank....you"

"So please don't cry while flinging daggers at me..."

Inuchiyo said "It's dangerous" and took away the dagger from the girl.

".....This dagger is the famed blade 'Toragozen'. This child, is the real Takenaka Hanbei," Inuchiyo said while nodding her head.

Yoshiharu and Nagamasa regained their senses and let out a shriek.

"Ehhhhh? This full of snot girl is the real Hanbei? The one who outsmarts Nobuna all the time....."

"The world renowned military adviser, Takenaka Hanbei? How unbelievable."

Though Inuchiyo said that, but in actual fact, Yoshiharu is still in doubt. It's true that this pale girl is similar to the history's Hanbei who was also sickly in health, but is this really true? Is this sobbing young child really the one who devised the horrible "Ambush from all sides" and "Stone Sentinel Maze"?

Nagamasa is thinking "That commoner faced Saru seems more capable to handle small kids. If that's the case, will I able to pull Hanbei over before Saru does?" while Yoshiharu was thinking "Damn, this kid is even more harder to deal with than Nene" and was patting Hanbei's head in panic to reduce her wariness.

"Your hand movements are getting more and more creepy," Inuchiyo mumbled.

"*Sob* I won't be naughty anymore. So please don't bully me..." *Piak*

"Nya, stop pasting strange talismans on my forehead!"

"Takenaka Hanbei's Kagemusha (substitute), Zenki, is revived as of now! Sagara-dono, prepare yourself." *Pinch*

"Oi, why is there a Shikigami suddenly?! Ouch, it hurts, damn it! Blood, blood is flowing out? My neck is bleeding now!!!!!"

"See... You became angry in the end. As expected, you are angry."
Sobsobsob

"What the hell!!! You are the one who is making me angry, ok!?"

~cries~

"Hmmm! The crime of making my master cry, will be paid with your life! I pinch!!!"

"Wa...Wait wait wait! If this goes on, I will really die due to blood loss..... Inuchiyo, help me!!!"

".....being bullied by such a small child yet have such a blissful face, Yoshiharu, you are really perverted."

"Oh, Hanbei. This guy is your new aide! He's not here to bully you! You can't use your Shikigami and be rude to him."

"No mercy to anyone who makes Hanbei cry, let me kill you!" Yoshiharu's scream reverberated throughout the room, the whole scene looks just like hell.

After dispersing the ronins from the shop, Ando Iga came over frantically.

"I'm so sorry, Sagara-dono! This child from a young age is sickly, cowardly and childish. The combination of the three characteristics makes people bully her! Towards someone she just met, she will always use her onmyouji and scams to test if they are easily angered.

"No one will remain calm after being messed up like that! Hey, geezer, stop looking and come up with a solution now!"

~Crying~ "He's angry, he's fuming mad now...."

"How dare you let my master cry, this crime is only punishable by death!"

"So noisy."

"Why not just let this monkey die. With this Nobuna-dono will....."

"Guys! For Hanbei who finally became Saitou's strategist, there will definitely be people who are having jealous thoughts! For the smooth sailing of moving to Inabayama castle for her first day of work, please try your best and protect Hanbei!"

"Compared to that, I'm more afraid of being bullied to death by Hanbei!"

"This weakly adviser can't possibly be the real Hanbei." Yoshiharu while fighting desperately with the Shikigami, thought of his own future and let out a deep sigh.

The next day morning.

Hanbei and her aides climbed Mount Inaba, also known as Kinkazan. The origins of this name was because when the season which the beech flowers bloom, the whole mountain is colored golden by the flowers.

Saitou Yoshitatsu's castle, Inabayama Castle, is a gigantic fortress using Mount Inaba as a natural shield, the height is estimated to be 330 meters. The Nagara river flows at the north side, while in the east stands Megumiyama and Kiso Mitakesan. In the west, Kinkazan, Ibukiyama, Yorozan and Suzukayama all provide a wall of mountains. At the south of Mount Inaba, the town acts as the first defense line against the Owari army.

The most important thing is, Kinkazan and Mount Inaba all had very steep slopes to the point that they can be compared to the Kyoto's door of death, Hieizan.

"This castle has excellent geographical advantages. From the viewpoint of an onmyouji, the Inabayama Castle is fit to be the fortress of kings. From this point, I can understand why Viper-dono and Oda Nobuna who both had ambitions for the world will want to conquer this point so desperately."

The one talking to the new aides and giving them the viewpoints of onmyouji while acting like a tour guide is Hanbei herself. Hanbei, with her set of light clothing is not even wearing boots, and is wearing her trademark-like silk clothing.

"Because boots are heavy, *sob*"

Hanbei was riding a horse, though instead of calling it a horse, calling it a donkey might be more fitting because this horse is just too chibi. Her legs are closely straddling the horse, giving a standard look of a distinguished lady.

"Because big horses are scary, *sob*"

"No matter how delicate you are, as a warrior, its still embarrassing to ride like this," Yoshiharu mumbles while holding to Hanbei's horse's reins.

"Hanbei-chan, what do you mean by excellent geographical advantages?"

"Er..... Because if there is no river close to the town, the town won't be able to flourish for long because of water supply issues. If there are no mountains close by, it will increase the difficulty of defending. So for any fortress of kings, it must be a place with nearby rivers and mountains."

"I see, Onmyoudou is actually a knowledge which heavily focus on feng shui," Yoshiharu nods while agreeing.

Because of her two Shikigamis, Zenki and Gouki, being too ridiculous, it's still a bit hard to accept. Yoshiharu even thought that all this might just be another illusion, but if that's the case, the bite marks on his neck will become another mystery.

"I'm really sorry for yes...yesterday. I'm already reflecting on it."

After glancing at the bandages around Yoshiharu's neck and giving out a "Ah!", she bowed down deeply and apologized to her three servants. Now who is the master and who is the servant?

"I...I...I have a history of being bullied... I am a masochistic child. (Omenko^[12])"

"Oh.... So Hanbei-chan is masochistic.... Ehhhhhh!?"

"Ah! I'm sorry, sorry, sorry for being masochistic. *sob*"

Looking at the extremely alarmed face of Yoshiharu, Inuchiyo explained that omenko means "introverted" in Mino dialect.

"Yes. That's why I have to make sure if you people will bully me in the first meeting.....Because I'm afraid of strangers.....*sob*"

"Ma.....Masochist???!?!!!"

"It's "introvert" in Mino dialect," Inuchiyo stressed once again.

".....Yoshiharu seems to misheard it so perversely intentionally."

"Is...Is it!? Oh, it's a small thing actually! No problem since Hanbei-chan is so cute!" Yoshiharu said.

".....Yo...Yoshiharu-dono, you plan to dote on me.... Dote, so... so as to say, you wanna bully me harshly? You want to gather all the aides and push them over here? *Sobsob*"

"Push? It's not a sumo contest! It's not like that!"

"I'm wrong? Are you angry?"

"I'm not. But Hanbei-chan, you have not been under Saitou-clan until now, don't tell me there is a very terrifying person in Inabayama Castle?"

"The previous head, Viper-dono is a very very very very scary person.
Sobsobsob

"I see. Yeah, that geezer seems scary when he's talking."

"The new head, Yoshitatsu-sama is better compared to Viper-sama, but such a tall and big guy is still scary....."

"Don't be so strict on outer appearances."

"I'm sorry! are you bullying me?"

"Who is bullying you!? Hanbei-chan, you should be afraid of going onto the battlefield. I didn't expect you to have the resolve to take up the advisor position."

".....Because there is two very scary people in Owari, Viper-sama and the sixth Maou Oda Nobuna. Once I think that these very scary people are going to invade Mino from Owari, I can't sleep from fear, so no matter what, I have to protect Mino..." *Sobsobsob*

"Ahh... So that's it..." Yoshiharu nods his head repeatedly.

".....Hime-sama and Viper these two, their bad names are really over the top outside," Inuchiyo said.

"At this point, Asai Nagamasa from Omi is a friendly and strong warrior," Nagamasa stepped into the conversation too.

"Che... How can that sissy be a strong warrior?"

"Shut up, you shit eating monkey."

"You shut up, sissy Omi monkey."

"Both of you have such a good relationship," Inuchiyo mumbled.

"'Good' your ass!!!"

"Erm... Sagara-dono, Asai-dono. I will not go over to Owari or Omi..... If I betray Yoshitatsu-sama, I will definitely be hated and bullied.....especially when Owari has Viper-sama and Oda Nobuna, having good relationship with them is definitely impossible..." *Sobsobsob*

"Damn, our motive has been exposed!" Yoshiharu started to panic.

"It's because of your big mouth, you Owari Monkey." Nagamasa grumbled.

"Okay, the problem for now is the bunch of people around Yoshitatsu-sama," Ando Iga grumbled while holding his back.

"Such a young Hanbei being promoted to the position of strategist, who knows what terrible things will happen?"

".....*shocked*"

"Geezer, you're too careless with your words! Hanbei is scared now, isn't she?"

"Oh, yes, you're right. Sorry, Hanbei."

"It's ok, Uncle-sama. Because there are so many squirrels in Kinkazan.....So cute....." The small Hanbei said. For some time now, there are squirrels gathering on her head and knees.

"Morning, Squirrel-san. I've brought sunflower seeds for you guys. Squirrel-san won't bully me, I love them so much."

".....Hmmm. Inuchiyo wanna feed them too.....But they just don't come to me....."

"It's your fault for wearing that tiger hat. Which squirrel in the world will take food from a tiger?"

".....*shocked*"

"In the past, Viper-dono bought a bunch of squirrels as a source of food from overseas. After that, they ran away onto Kinkazan. Over the twenty-odd years, their numbers have grown quite a bit."

"Eating such cute squirrel-sans? So scary.....*sobsob*"

"Hanbei is starting to shiver again, Geezer!!!" Yoshiharu couldn't bear it and shouted at Ando Iga. This geezer really doesn't think things through.

".....at the summit already."

In this era, a fortress seldom has a Tenshukaku (Main Tower). The Lord of Mino, Saitou Yoshitatsu, living quarters are in the middle of Kinkazan, a place known as "Ninomaru". It's a three story building designed personally by Viper, Saitou Dousan himself.

For Hanbei's group, today is the start of their first day of work. And for Mino, today is also the day they come up with an overall plan to defend against Owari.

Though Hanbei did cry and shout that "The castle has too many scary people", and refused to be at Inabayama Castle personally, her pleas are easily repelled by the reason "As the strategist, how can you not show your face?"

Saitou Yoshitatsu and his aides had been waiting for quite some time.

In fact, Yoshitatsu now has become wary of this weird strategist Hanbei who has twice repelled Owari's attacks with her "Ambush from all sides" and "Stone Sentinel Maze" tactics, and is having premonitions of danger for giving such a person total control over his troops.

"To be able to repel such a strong Owari army, this strategist named Hanbei, though she is just a brat, can she be a manifestation of a monster?" Yoshitatsu felt a sense of fear creeping up from his heart.

In the audience is also a guy who has distanced himself from battles but is always coming up with schemes to do people in. The person named 'Saito Hidan Mamoru' has been advising Yoshitatsu and is trying his best to remove Hanbei.

"First, aggravate Hanbei by insulting him, then force him to draw her 'Toragozen'. As long as Hanbei draws his weapon in the castle, it will all be over. Then all I need to do is push the crime of rebelling onto him and let the samurais who had been hiding finish him off."

"As for my master, Yoshitatsu, all I need to do is to follow as planned and give the reason "Hanbei plans to assassinate master". Since there is only one kind of person in the world who won't talk, a dead person."

"Hanbei has always been calm, it won't be easy to make her angry. So there must be a certain level of insult. If not, this plan won't succeed."

But this Saito Hidanmori has never stepped onto the battlefield. He knows nothing about how Hanbei looks like, and don't even mention looks, he assumes that Hanbei is male from just the name.

Now.....

Hanbei who just reached Inabayama castle is walking cautiously to the castle gates. At that instant, Hidanmori who is guarding the gates stands

up calmly and grabs a howling dog. Right after that, the pee from the dog sprays onto Hanbei's little face.

"Know some shame, you idiots who only knows how to flatter!"

".....Uwwwaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!"

Hanbei was shocked at the sudden turn of events and after getting said by Hidanmori, tears start to gather around her eyelids.

The squirrel named "Hanbei" started to cry out loud.

Hidanmori is also shocked at the scene in front of him, "Eh? A...A girl?! And it's just a kid.....?" Knowing that he has done something irreversible wrong, Hidanmori shouted with a pale face "No, it's not like that! I'm not a pervert who gets excited seeing a bishoujo X dog pee" and rushed out from the castle gates while still shouting.

"What, what happened?" Yoshitatsu and his people had started to gather after hearing the noise, and witness Hanbei's half wet look. She was originally already a legendary bishoujo, add that to her current wet clothing and her face full of tears, the current look of Hanbei stirred up the guys innate desire to protect.

"Oh, isn't that Hanbei-dono?"

"Been bullied, huh?"

"Eh? Why are you wet?"

"Th...Th...Th...The clothes have became see-through."

"It looks like the dog peed on her."

The guys' breath started to get heavier and faster.....

"If this goes on, she will catch a cold. Let me wipe her body."

"No, let me!"

"Shut up! Here you should let me, the master of Mino, Saitou Yoshitatsu change her clothes and wipe her body, then console her by patting her on the head!"

These guys's lolicon souls are burning brightly!

"What the hell? Why do we meet lolicons so frequently nowadays!? And they even have a pee fetish!" Yoshitatsu can't bear it and said.

".....Sob....Sob....Sobsob.... I....I...I...I've been bullied."

The Hanbei who is confused now, that's the real crisis!

Yoshitatsu, Nagamasa and Inuchiyo are scared stiff by these turn of events and can't move at all.

"Damn it! Hanbei is going bonkers! Guys, don't let her go berserk!" Before Ando Iga can even complete saying it, Hanbei shouted "Don't bully me!!!", grabbed a talisman and started to dance.

"Hmmm! To cleanse my master from the humiliation, Zenki pays his respects!"

"To give divine punishment to the perverts of Mino, Gouki pays his respects!"

Following right behind Zenki and Gouki this pair of fox and wolf, all kinds of never seen before Shikigami began to appear from Hanbei's magic formation.

"The Twelve Heavenly Guards, Snake pays his respects."

"The Twelve Heavenly Guards, Phoenix pays his respects."

"Rikugo pays his respects."

"Kouchin pays his respects."

"The Azure Dragon pays his respects."

"The Bourgeoisie pays his respects."

"Night"

"Day"

"Genbu, the black tortoise."

"Great Couture"

"Shirotora"

"Great Sky"

Hanbei threw all the talismans in her hand, and the number of Shikigami she had summoned has reached a never before seen number too, 14!!!

From the state of lolicon power full throttle, and all of a sudden, terrifying ghosts started appearing in front of their eyes, Yoshitatsu and his men all scream "It's out!", "Takenaka Hanbei has rebelled!", and "Inabayama castle has been assaulted from within!"

"Demon arts, run for your lives!"

"No, I just want to pat my adviser's head as the province master!"

Everyone ran back into the building.

"Stop, we barely made an appearance! HmMMM!"

"They ran like whipped dogs just from seeing us Shikigamis, what a bunch of cowards!"

Zenki and Gouki chased after Yoshitatsu and his minions making the whole Inabayama castle a complete mess. When they came back to their sense, they found that the Mino soldiers in Inabayama castle had all ran away, leaving Hanbei's party and her Shikigami army.

"Eh? Does this means, this fortress belongs to us now? Good job, Hanbei!"

Hanbei and her party walked into the now deserted castle, planning for a rest, and only at this time Ando Iga realised the fact that "Inabayama castle has been conquered".

A small brat just conquered a whole fortress by making a fuss and crying? Hanbei shivered with fear after noticing the dreadful situation.

"I...I...I...I did...did not plan to do this...Ah...Ahhhh. If I re...re...rebel, I'll be bullied... *sobsobsob* *Achoo*"

"With how things are going now, it can't be helped. For now, just change your clothes, you will catch a cold!"

".....Yoshiharu, don't blame the dog."

"Hanbei-dono, though it's unintentional, it's a undisputed fact that you have claimed the fortress from your master's hands. Can you give this Inabayama castle to me, Asai Nagamasa? Of course I will not bully you. And I can swear now, if I Saruyashamaru still draws breath, protecting you

from bad people who bully you will be done even if that's the last thing I will do."

Nagamasa suddenly held Hanbei's little hands and spoke non-stop. He's the best when it comes to situations like this.

"Now just stop right there, Nagamasa! What do you mean by "I will protect you in this life of mine." Didn't you already propose to Nobuna?"

"Stop trying to make a mess, Saru! As a Sengoku daimyo, having a harem is totally normal. Besides, my love is unlimited. My love won't dry up even if there is a couple more girls."

"Damn you, didn't you say shitty things like 'Though I don't love you, it's for the sake of political marriage.'"

"Damn Saru, just how stupid are you. Don't tell me you know nothing about such creatures like woman?"

Nagamasa gives off an expression of triumph, and softly whisper to Yoshiharu's ears. "To a realistic person like me and Nobuna-dono who has their eyes for the world's conquest, "For the sake of your biggest dream, forsake the little hopes you have." this kind of logical saying is most effective. But, Hanbei-dono and Nobuna-dono are totally opposite, so "An everlasting love" this kind of saying will most likely be able to move her heart."

"You bastard, you will suit your sayings to whatever that benefits you the most with those sinister mouth of yours, huh?"

"That's right. It's ok as long as I say the things the other party wants to hear. That's the trick to getting loved by women."

"Oh shit.....Saru, this is all your fault!"

"Hanbei-chan, never get deceived by this sissy's flattering words! Oi Nagamasa, get your ass away from Hanbei-chan now!"

"You bastard plan on stopping me, huh? At this moment, if I get my hands on Inabayama castle, Nobuna-dono will definitely marry me to get Mino.

"It's because of that exact reason why I'm trying to stop you, ok?"

"How many times do you want me to say it, Saru? For a small-time soldier like you, marrying a princess from the daimyo family is not even a tiny bit possible. It's like a toad trying to eat a swan, it's all bullshit."

Grrrr.....!

Yoshiharu's whole body is red all of a sudden.

"I...I...I...I...I really feel that who No...No...No...Nobuna getting married to is totally of no concerns to me! Bu...But Nagamasa, I just don't like you! You see girls as tools for you to get ahead in life! Are you still fit to be a guy!?"

"Oh..... The reason you came all the way here to persuade Hanbei, is all because you don't like the way I treat girls indifferently? What a brat-like statement, it fits your character after all."

"Grrrr....Inuchiyo! Lend me your spear, I will definitely finish this today with this marriage deceiving criminal."

"*Sobsob* I know both of you are here for Oda Nobuna, but please stop fighting..... And the fight isn't about me too....." Hanbei is about to fill with tears again.

"No. It's a fact that I don't love Nobuna-dono, but towards Hanbei-dono, my love for you is the truth!"

"Oi, Nagamasa! Who are you trying to bluff with such obvious lies?"

"Hmmm! 'I have nothing to do with Nobuna.' This kind of idiotic statement is spoken by who, huh? And people like you who stopped me from taking Nobuna-dono away is in actual fact the real culprit who played with Hanbei-dono's heart."

"I can't take it! When have I played around with Hanbei-chan!?"

"Aren't you letting Hanbei-dono miss a chance at happiness?"

"That's why I said, what makes you think you can give Hanbei-chan happiness! There is only Inabayama castle and Nobuna in your head now."

"These two guys can't settle down unless they fight it out....." Inuchiyo grumbled.

Hanbei said once again "I will not go with any of you."

"I will never do such a thing like betraying. To solve this misunderstanding, I must let Yoshitatsu-sama return to Inabayama castle, and I will retire and go back to Bodaisen."

"This is impossible, Yoshitatsu and his people will not return because of your Shikigamis," Nagamasa said.

"Now is not the time to be indecisive. If you follow that Saru to Owari, there is the terrifying Viper and Nobuna who will be waiting for you with watering mouths, not to mention there will be a shitty monkey harassing you everyday. But if you follow me to Omi, I, Saruyashamaru, will definitely protect you, which is better. I do not think you need to consider anymore."

Just as Nagamasa planned to pull Hanbei, he met the just returning Zenki and Gouki, and with their "This fellow is obviously lying", "Suspicious fellow". With this, Nagamasa had to give up.

With so many interfering people around, there is really no way for Nagamasa to pull Hanbei over to his side.

After saying "I have something to say to Ando-sama", Nagamasa dragged totally drunk Ando Iga who is saying "No matter if it's Omi or Owari, Hanbei has become a fortress owner now. I should just drink till I'm full now" and left the building.

"Am I wrong in being so cowardly?" Hanbei let out a voice of concern and collapsed onto the tatami. As the rumors had said, Hanbei's constitution is really weak, she seemed to have a fever now.

"Achoo! *Sobsob*So...So cold..."

".....Inuchiyo will bring her for a shower. Yoshiharu, do not peek!"

"I...I will not do such a thing!"

".....haven't you been peeking at Katsuie while she's showering?"

"I...I said I'm not peeking! Though it's correct that I have an enormous interest in that ever swaying breasts of hers!"

After getting knocked on the head by the fuming Inuchiyo with her spear, Yoshiharu was knocked out onto the ground.

.....

"Hmmm? When did I faint? It's already night?"

The first thing that the freshly rebooted Yoshiharu did was to rush to the courtyard, but the sun has already went down, and what is before him is nothing but darkness.

In such a dark and windy night, suddenly Inuchiyo and Hanbei's small faces appeared in front of him without a sound, triggering Yoshiharu to scream "Wahhhhh".

".....Yoshiharu, it's still too early to be stunned. We have not reported to you anything yet."

"*sob sob* Just when I collapsed due to fever..... Uncle Ando he..."

".....was lured away by Asai Nagamasa."

"WHAT!?"

Inuchiyo is holding up a letter, and the letter is of Nagamasa's handwriting. The main points are like this: "Because of some monkey's interference, I can't portray my love to you, so I hope you can forgive me for my disrespect. If you want Ando Iga to be returned safely, please meet me without the monkey's interference. The time limit is tonight at 4:30, location will be the mid of Nagara river, Sunomata. If you come here, I will definitely return your uncle in one piece."

Though disguised as an invitation, in actual fact it's a ransom letter.

"Nagamasa that bastard, going for another way, now he has finally shown his true colors! Hanbei-chan, please do not go alone! If not, you will be the one who is lured and captured away next!"

Sob sob

".....Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo will go to Sunomata and defeat Nagamasa.

"Anyway Inuchiyo, not mentioning about that geezer being the hostage now,

"....Yes, it's dangerous if we meet an ambush in the night."

Suddenly, Yoshiharu smacked his thighs and said excitedly.

"Ah! Yes, didn't Hanbei-chan have the strongest Shikigami army!? Just use the Shikigamis and this can be finished in no time!"

sob sob "It's impossible now....." Hanbei shook her small head.

"Ehhhhh?" Yoshiharu is stunned on the spot.

"Onmyoujis need to setup formations when summoning Shikigamis or doing the stone sentinel maze. As an Onmyouji, by right I should be well equipped with the talismans to set up such a formation."

"Hanbei-chan, don't tell me you....."

"Yes, during this morning's fuss, I used all of them unintentionally....."

"If so, how about Zenki?"

"Once the talismans wears off, they will all disappear. Without the talisman, it is impossible to resummon the Shikigamis."

"Just us will be dangerous....." Inuchiyo chipped in and said.

"How do we get those.... Er, wrong, how do we obtain those talismans?"^[13]

"The pentagram seal only needs to be drawn onto the talisman itself, but to successfully summon a Shikigami, it's a must to go to the Seimei shrine to input spiritual energy in it."

"The Seimei shrine..... is...isn't that in Kyoto?"

"*Cough* The shrine's headquarters is in Kyoto, but there are actually several smaller shrines spread out in Japan. All the different shrines aren't actually just to worship Abe Seimei, they are actually places for onmyoujis to train, input their spiritual power and exchange information."

"Hmmm. So the Seimei shrines is your refueling station. And you have different branches all around in Japan."

"Just ignore Yoshiharu's foreign ramblings," Inuchiyo said.

"Mino's Seimei shrine is at Ogaki. Though it's true that it's near my hometown, Bodaisen."

"Ogaki? Wait, why do I feel like I've heard about this place before?"

"About Ogaki, I remember in the Sengoku SLG's famed work "The ambition of Oda Nobunaga", there is an Ogaki castle in west Mino." Yoshiharu's sengoku gaming knowledge is starting to spin again.

Though Ogaki is in Mino's territory, and is near Sekigahara, it's actually closer to Omi. It's not a place that we can reach in a span of hours.

And besides, Nagamasa's place, Sunomata is actually close to the foot of the mountain.

"Hanbei-chan, so as to say, we do not have time to go to Ogaki's Seimei shrine?"

"Yes. If we factor in Asai-dono's deadline, there is no time if we go to Seimei shrine and back."

"But even if it's like this, I can't let you risk it alone. Worst case scenario, we will just have to try something with the three of us.

".....if that's the case, won't this fortress be just an empty fortress, Yoshiharu-san. If Yoshitatsu-sama knows about it, he will definitely lead troops to conquer it back...ummm...is that really ok.....?"

"How....." Inuchiyo frowned and mumbled.

"Sagara-shi...Sagara-shi"

At this moment, from the floorboards of the room came a familiar voice with a bit of stuttering.

Yoshiharu and Hanbei retreated a few steps, and a small head appears from the floorboards.

"It's you, Goemon. If you were here, don't let Ando-jii-san get kidnapped away."

"I...I'm dishonored. I... was chased by the Shikigamis and was hiding in the mountains for very long~nyaa."

"A ninja getting chased away by a Shikigami, what an extraordinary scene."

".....Sagara-shi. Even if it's against reason, we should hurry now, let's just abandon Ando-shi."

"What did you say?"

"Hanbei will hate Asai-shi and become Sagara-shi's ally.

Yanapayama(Inabayama) castle will belong to Sagera-si(Sagara-shi)."

This is a translation of what Goemon actually means. "Promise to save Ando-shi with Hanbei, then abandon Ando-shi."

The exact procedure is "Let me start a fire secretly outside the room, this will make her unable to leave the room. After that, I will either use drugs or hypnosis to make her sleep. A little onmyouji brat who can't summon her Shikigamis can never win against a ninja."

After Ando-shi is murdered, Hanbei will definitely swear upon her name to take revenge for her uncle. Since she is unable to rely on Saitou Yoshitatsu now, the only one left is Sagara-shi. When that happens, Inabayama castle, so as to say, Mino will be up for taking for Nobuna-dono. After taking Mino, the promise of doing great things between Sagara-shi and Nobuna-dono will be fulfilled. And, after looking at Hanbei's achievements, Nobuna-dono and Asai-shi's alliance will become impossible, and the marriage between them will automatically be dissolved.

".....the lough(rough) outline is like this, what do you think, Sayara-shi?"

Towards Goemon who is very inept at talking long sentence and had almost bitten off her tongue, she let out a sign in relief after ending her long speech.

But.

Yoshiharu was not even the least bit moved by Goemon's plan.

"Don't ever suggest such a plan again, Goemon."

Maybe due his anger, Yoshiharu's shoulders had start to shake as he lectured Goemon.

"I am the guy who succeeded Kinoshita Tokichirou! I will forever stand on the side of Japans cute girls! How could I let Hanbei-chan have a terrible memory!? A thing like Inabayama castle can be abandoned but I will definitely save Ando-jii-san!"

After being lectured, Goemon answered in a tone that sounded like a cat being caressed "Understood. I was expecting Sagara-shi to say this. Hehe."

"Don't say such a thing knowing what I would say. You and the strength of your Kawanami clan, lend it to me once again.

"Leave it to me, but what do you plan to do with Nobuna-dono and Asai-shi's marriage~nya?

"Uhhh....Th...There should be a way.....!"

"So can you do it?"

"But Nobuna's marriage is a problem between Nagamasa and me, how can I drag Hanbei-chan into this!? Nagamasa that bastard, I will definitely duel it out with him one day."

"Ara-ara. So shameless to want to have everything~nya, Sagara-shi."

"There will be a day when someone will be abandoned by you," Goemon said lightly to herself and disappears.

"Don't lump me together with Nagamasa!" Yoshiharu shouted at the disappeared Goemon.

"No matter what happens, Nobuna will never marry someone like me." After thinking this fact, Yoshiharu feels painful as if his heart is being pierced by needles.

Just then, Hanbei and Inuchiyo gather at Yoshiharu's side.

"Um....Just now, who were you talking to?"

"Ah, Hanbei-chan. That girl just now is a ninja called Goemon. Rather than being a friend..... she is more like family."

"Is.....a ninja. You... You mean those people who kill silently in the darkness with one blow? So....So scary....."

"The same goes for you, and I think that a Shikigami summoned by an onmyouji is much scarier."

".....Yoshiharu. Have you decided on what to do?"

"Oh, Inuchiyo. First Hanbei-chan should send a letter to Yoshitatsu saying that she summoned her Shikigamis to punish the rude Hidanmori and has no intentions to rebel. Then we should move out from Inabayama Castle to make things right. That's the plan, I think."

And then, we three should go and save Ando-jii-san!

While saying, Yoshiharu raised his fist in a fit of adrenaline, while Inuchiyo mumbled, ".....Yoshiharu, always treats cute girls like his own belongings", and raised her hand and rested it on Yoshiharu's fist while giving an exasperated expression, and Hanbei stretch her hand out cowardly and said, ".....Th...Th...Thanks.....! Yoshiharu-san, this gratitude, I will never forget it, ever.....!"

With her eyes shining brightly with a hint of tears, Hanbei placed her hand onto both of their hands, saying to the duo something she seemingly just remembered.

".....Ah....But, for Oda Nobuna-dono, isn't this fortress something that Yoshiharu-san definitely needs? If Nobuna-dono can't capture Mino successfully, she will have to carry on the marriage with Asai-dono....."

Though a brat who loves to cry, Hanbei isn't stupid at all, she now has a vague understanding of the situation between Yoshiharu, Nagamasa and Nobuna. Inuchiyo told her everything from Asai Nagamasa's proposal to the inside affairs of the Oda clan without hiding anything.

Hanbei isn't just a snotty little girl.

In her heart, there's also real courage and her own sense of ideology^[14].

This chivalry, can be described as righteousness.

Though Hanbei has extraordinary wits and commanding ability, she does not have much ambitions, and all she wants is a secluded life alone in Bodaisen. The reason why she served under Yoshitatsu, is to substitute her uncle who is trying his best to bring honour to the family, which is also her trying to repay the gratitude of Ando Iga raising her in place of her father, so as to say, her sense of righteousness.

From the start, Hanbei's constitution was poor from birth. Even now, getting high in spirits with the duo has her head feeling slightly warm. Before she can gain anything, her own existence will definitely disappear from this world.

When she was still very small, she had abandoned herself to despair. Hanbei, may have already realised her own body's limit.

But.

Because she had never been interested in worldly affairs, she had become devoid of desires. Towards living in this world, she only had an empty feeling like "The world would be the same without me".

Towards the desireless Hanbei, in place of her desires which leads her, is the so called "righteousness".

The Hanbei now, from Yoshiharu who was suppose to grab Inabayama Castle for Nobuna, she sensed a different "righteousness".

Though Yoshiharu did not say anything, Hanbei felt it, the admiration he held toward his own master Nobuna, no, his feelings were far stronger then the word admiration can describe.

Towards Hanbei who had yet to experience the taste of love, this feeling was unbelievably strong.

But to help Hanbei and give up Inabayama Castle, for Yoshiharu, it might mean that he would give up his most important Nobuna.

In fact, all he needs to do is to kill defenseless Hanbei who had already lost the ability to summon her Shikigamis.

But no matter if it's Yoshiharu, or Inuchiyo who is by his side, no one developed the thought of "kill Hanbei and grab Inabayama Castle". This choice never existed inside Yoshiharu before. Right now, after balancing the weight of the situation, it is as if Yoshiharu had decided outright on helping Hanbei who is in troubled now."

After confirming his "righteousness", Hanbei also decided to use her own "righteousness" to repay Yoshiharu, even if she had to bear the name of betraying her master and conquering the fortress.

Hanbei puffed up her small chest and announces, ".....I can't accept your help. This fortress, Yoshiharu-san, please accept it. Let me advance to Sunomata alone."

But.

Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo rejected Hanbei's proposal with a smile.

Yoshiharu said, "Till I am fired, we will always be the aides of Hanbei-chan. So it's ok if you don't force yourself" while he rubbed Hanbei's small head.

Hanbei's eyelids start to grow big with tears.

This time, she shed tears not because of fear, but because her heart is overflowing with warm feelings that she did not know what to do, but yet, it relived her.

With this.

Hanbei and her party rendezvous with Goemon and left the castle under the dark night. They set on the Kawanami clan's raft and sped off on Nagara river.

During this, Hanbei sent a pigeon carrying a letter to Yoshitatsu who is hiding in the town near the foot of the mountain, it seems that Yoshitatsu who has been scared stiff did not have the guts to return to Inabayama castle.

Yoshiharu readies himself on the raft, with his battle ready stance.

"That Nobuna, this time she will definitely be fuming with anger....."
Yoshiharu mumbled.

Just by imagining Nobuna being taken away by Nagamasa is enough to cause terrible agony.

But, after looking at the small face of Hanbei who is taking a nap on his lap, he didn't feel a tinge of regret in his heart.

"This child is the so called "Current Zhuge Liang" in the 21st century that I lived in, Japan's number one genius strategist, the Takenaka Hanbei who had intelligence over 98. Who can expect that it is I who is trying to pull Hanbei over. But, how can I let such a weak girl bear such a tragic fate like revenge, I will definitely be scolded by Tokichirou-jii-san if I let it go like that.

Using the river currents, the Kawanami raft party launched an ambush towards the mid river's Sunomata.

But.....

They couldn't find any trace of Ando Iga and Asai Nagamasa.

Everyone opened their eyes to their fullest extent and searched, but not even a kitten was found.

"Bastard! We've been set up!!" yelled the vice commander who has been leading the Kawanami clan, a macho guy named Maeno stomped his feet

in rage making Hanbei let out a "Uwahhh" and hid behind Yoshiharu in fear.

".....Yoshiharu, there are words in the soil." Inuchiyo pointed at a soil patch without any grass growing and said.

It seems like the righteous Hanbei-dono is very uncomfortable about being a traitor.

But as long as Sagara Yoshiharu is there, returning Inabayama castle to Saitou Yoshitatsu is impossible.

So according to my plan, I will be the traitor.

Now, Sagara who bears immense hatred towards me must have brought Hanbei-dono here.

If that's the case, Hanbei-dono can be rid of the name of being a traitor.

But after causing such a big mess, I believe it's impossible to return to Mino.

Please come to Omi.

As long as Hanbei-dono becomes my aide, Ando Iga will definitely be safely returned back to your side.

"Damn! After seeing that it's impossible to persuade Hanbei to join him, that bastard lured us here so as to return Inabayama Castle to Yoshitatsu! Nagamasa that bastard, as expected he is not just a normal gigolo.....!"

".....Maybe he is desperate for an alliance with the princess."

"But it's really unbelievable to think that Nagamasa gave up Inabayama castle so easily."

"..... He might be thinking with Hanbei as his aide, he can conquer the fortress alone. Besides, it's the same result with the princess even if he did not conquer it."

"No matter how I see it, he plans to take Oda clan as his belonging by political marriage. Why is that guy so persistent over Nobuna when he does not love her one bit!"

"As per common sense, Hime-sama who have the same ambition as him should be the best candidate for marriage," Inuchiyo mumbled, but

Yoshiharu did not think that way. Yoshiharu is certain that the "world" in Nobuna's eyes and the "world" in Nagamasa's eyes are definitely not the same thing. Though Asai Nagamasa is very energetic and cunning, he is definitely not one who holds compassion towards the people, not to say competing in equal terms with the Europeans, since the sweet words of his is definitely useless towards the Euro fleet.

.....

There's nothing we can do if we keep staying in Sunomata.

Yoshiharu and the gang headed north following the Nagara river, planning to send Hanbei back to her hometown of Bodaisen since no one knew if Yoshitatsu had already sent out troops to kill Hanbei.

Looking at the dark and diminishing Mount Kinka, Inuchiyo said softly, ".....Just the Owari army alone is unable to conquer that fortress. Hime-sama will have to marry Asai Nagamasa."

"Not yet, Inuchiyo. I have not given up yet. Though I can't do such a thing like accepting the fortress from Hanbei-chan, I will definitely think of something to conquer that Inabayama Castle."

".....Impossible. From the start, Hime-sama is good at guerrilla warfare. She sucks at sieging fortresses.

"Because Nobuna is impulsive. But there must be some other way, there must be!"

"Ohhhhhhhh! I will definitely stop Nagamasa's marriage for all of you to see!" Yoshiharu shouted while using all his brain juices to think on the boat, while Goemon used her pelican to fish in the river.

"It's impossible."

This sentence seems like an arrow piercing Yoshiharu's heart with a "kachak".

"If you really want to stop the marriage, you should kidnap Hanbei back to the portress(fortress)."

"Goemon, even if that's true, I will never kidnap girls. That is my, the popular harem warrior, Sagara Yoshiharu's way of life."

"In the end, you will lose Nobuna-dono."

"What can I do? I am someone who will chase all of them, no matter if it's two or three rabbits. Beside, it's a matter of life and death, how can I just leave it like this!?"^[15]

"Arara. Sagara-shi, what a lustful person you are."

"Goemon, shouldn't you use the word "good" here?"

"No~pe. It's lustful person."

"....*sob* Really, I'm so sorry."

It might be because she was afraid of the ninja and the macho men, Hanbei once again lowered her head after sitting and hugging her legs a distance away from Goemon and the Kawanami clan members.



"Don't mind us, Hanbei-chan. Getting back Mino for Dousan and going to the capital has always been Nobuna's dream. It's just that currently Nagamasa is interfering and the situation isn't very good."

".....Yoshiharu likes Hime-sama despite being a lowly foot soldier. That's why he wants to use his own strength and stop Nagamasa's marriage."

"Oi, Inuchiyo! Wh-wh-wh-who likes that idiot!? I just... um... as an aide of the Oda clan... er....! It's only that I can't see eye to eye with Asai clan.....! From the start, Nagamasa that bastard, doesn't like Nobuna one bit, he even kept saying about it being a political marriage like it's nothing..... How can I let Nobuna marry such a heartless guy! Uwah, why is my body getting hot so suddenly!?"

".....As you've seen, Yoshiharu has been mesmerized by Hime-sama. He can even give his life up."

"Oioi Inuchiyo, stop giving strange information to Hanbei-chan."

"To Yoshiharu-san, Nobuna-dono is really a very important person." Looking at the moon's reflection at the river, Hanbei whispered softly.

"No...No such thing! A guy like me, don't just judge my appearance, but I'm fiercely loyal! And don't judge Nobuna like that, even though she normally is very bashful, very arrogant and forever not knowing when to pull her punches, that violent girl still accepts and keeps me who is not of this world as an aide."

Hanbei looked at the blushing and stomping Yoshiharu, and said in a small voice, ".....If she's really that important to you, you can just hide her somewhere where nobody can touch her. To not let anyone hurt Hime-sama, you should treasure her as such and keep her deep inside a fortress."

Actually Hanbei wants to say these : "Actually I do not want to be mixed into these worldly affairs, if I had chosen seclusion, this wouldn't have happened to uncle and I wouldn't have to face a thing like escaping."

But, Hanbei said this instead, "Yoshiharu-san, if you really treat Nobuna-dono so importantly, it should be all right if you just hide her. And then, in place of Nobuna-dono, Yoshiharu-san should lead the Oda clan into battles."

"That is wrong, Hanbei-chan."

".....Eh?"

Yoshiharu stands at the side of Hanbei who is still gazing at the moon reflection.

"Hanbei-chan. The moon, it's beautiful, right?"

".....Yes. So beautiful."

"You like the moon?"

"Yes. Though it's a bit scary, but Tsuki-sama^[16] is not scary at all."

"So have you ever thought about hiding the moon in a secret place and not letting others see it?"

"Tsuki-sama can't be hidden."

"I'm just saying. If you use your onmyouji, it can be done, right?"

".....I think, I will not hide it away."

"Why, Hanbei-chan?"

".....If there is no Tsuki-sama shining brightly in the night, everyone will feel lonely. The roads will be pitch dark and it will be lots of troubles to everyone..... No matter if I like it or not, it's not a thing I should have alone."

"That's correct. Because that moon should be shining brightly in the night sky and should not be hidden away like the night of the new moon. Because if that's not the case, the moon won't be the moon anymore. It has such a beautiful and mysterious power to lighten up the dark night, yet if it can't use this power and only dwell in the cage, even the moon will feel sad."

"It's the same reason," Yoshiharu said.

"If I hide that fellow, there won't be any meaning anymore. That fellow won't be the same anymore. I... would like that fellow to shine brightly in front of the world."

".....If she shines out in the world, behind the light, there will always be shadows - making lots of enemies, and making people jealous. if that's the case, I think that important person of Yoshiharu will be agonized."

"About that, it's alright if we as aides solve it for her. I... want to protect that fellow, and at the same time, I want to let her shine out in the world.

For a while, Hanbei is stumped, and glances at the face of Yoshiharu who is standing by her side.

"Just now... in my heart... there's something taken away by Yoshiharu."

Just like that, a small feeling of unfairness yet mixed with joy crept into her heart.

This feeling is totally different compared to her "righteousness" burning in her heart.

It's a totally new feeling that Hanbei has never experienced.

Righteousness, loyalty, filial piety, her own thoughts as well as passion is mixed inside, and erupted into an emotion that is much stronger than the rest.

But from her own mouth, she said things that are a completely opposite to this emotion that she is feeling now.

"Yo...Yoshiharu-san is not just conflicted and it's too greedy. So childish."

Using all her strength, with her mouth, she resisted.

But the Yoshiharu who was the target of that, said in low tones with bright eyes.

"Yes, I'm nothing but a brat. I don't want to give up on anything. No matter who teases me about it, I will never become a decent adult who is able to put important things on a scale and measure."

This time, finally...

Ahhh...

Her most important thing, was stolen by the guy in front of her.

Hanbei believes.

But from her mouth, words like...

"Yoshiharu-san, you might really be a big idiot."

"Maybe."

"Yoshiharu-san, is there any talent of yours that is of use to Nobuna-dono?"

".....Skills with the spear and riding are all downright lousy, and because I will feel giddy just from seeing blood, going onto the battlefield is a no-no too. But since I'm from the future, I do know some history."

"*Cough* Even if that's true, Yoshiharu-san's actions will change the course of history. If that's the case, Yoshiharu-san you can't help Nobuna-dono at all."

"Hanbei-chan, do you feel cold?"

"No, it's ok, but compared to me, Yoshiharu-san's matters are far more important. I think, you must be living in a peaceful world, right? So you should not be here in this Sengoku era, but you are really gentle, but too useless."

"At most, I will just die. There's always a way. I... will never give up on anything."

"But, no matter how you try, a daimyo is a daimyo, an aide is an aide. Even if Asai-san's marriage is stopped, Yoshiharu-san and Nobuna-dono will definitely not be together. Do you really think that's...."

".....The great me marry that girl? Haha. I've already said I didn't even think of it....."

Like this, over a long time, the both of them became silent, and gaze quietly at the bright moon reflected onto the river.

And then, Hanbei suddenly said clearly in a volume only Yoshiharu can hear.

I've hesitated for a very long time, but if I don't say it out now, I will definitely... This dream that I have finally realized might end here right now.

Hanbei, for a long time since birth, feel fear creeping up her heart. So right here, the words that will change her whole life, she said it out herself.

"I also want to.... Let me be your light and forever protect you."

Takenaka Hanbei....

Just like that, she became the companion of Yoshiharu.

"Genius strategist, Takenaka Hanbei-chan actually teaming up with an unknown guy like me.....? You gotta be joking! Besides, what's this now? Not under Nobuna, but me!?"

If that's the case, the hope of not letting Nobuna be taken away by Asai Nagamasa... might succeed one day!

Yoshiharu, who was shocked at the sudden turn of events, cried "I'm forever in your debt!", and without knowing it, bowed down to the younger Hanbei.

"Raise your head, my master. From now, my strategies and onmyouji will all belong to you, don't be reserved, use them as you like."

"Nono! Hanbei-chan isn't my aide! It's companion! It's family! So, you can just call me Yoshiharu like just now."

".....*stifled laughter* As expected, you are totally different from the warriors of the Sengoku era, Yoshiharu-san."

Yoshiharu nods and bows profusely at Hanbei.

We will definitely save Ando Iga. Before that, even if it's our own allies, we should hide our real identities, the both of them decided.

During all this....

Going back to Inabayama castle, Saitou Yoshitatsu and his aides is holding a feast in a three-storey building, which also is the living quarters of the fortress master.

At the height of 6 foot 5 inches, Yoshitatsu is a big guy with a face like a children doodle.

Contrary to his bad looks, his brain is unexpectedly clever. From a young age, Yoshitatsu had been suspecting if he was the true son of his father, Saitou Dousan, who has always been known as fair looking.

After growing up and hearing from Dousan himself that he is the son of the daimyo who he had banished from Mino, Yoshitatsu has been hatching a plot to overthrow his godfather Dousan, with the aim of reviving the Toki clan.

Towards Dousan who had benefitted from taking Mino away from them and using dictatorial methods to grow the country, Yoshitatsu has always held an opposing mindset.

"Otou-sama is but a merchant at birth, he knows nothing about the importance of the old laws of this country. I'm not the same. I'm the descendant from the distinguished, Toki clan. As long as I hold the reins, I will definitely abolish all the change that Otou-sama has implemented, and let Mino go back to it's original state." Yoshitatsu planned like this at the beginning.

At that moment, the last hope that the traditional Yoshitatsu held was shattered to pieces when that perverted geezer Dousan said suddenly, "I have decided to give Mino to Nobuna-chan~"

At that time, the Nobuna who had not been through the battle of Okehazama with Imagawa Yoshimoto, is nothing but a fool in the eyes of the residents of Mino.

The residents of Mino, especially the powerful "Mino Three" had all agreed "Who knows what Nobuna that fool will do when she comes to Mino...", fearing for themselves, brought the strategist Hanbei and allied themselves with Yoshitatsu, and in doing so, allows Yoshitatsu to force Dousan into a corner at Nagara river.

The Mino Three is referring to Ando Iga, Ujiie Bokuzen and Inaba Itetsu. Between the three, Ando Iga holds the top position as Dousan confidant, but due to Dousan's reckless action of passing Mino to Owari's foolish princess, Oda Nobuna, Dousan has been labelled as a tyrant. To protect himself, he allied himself with Yoshitatsu.

But right now, Ando Iga doesn't even know the location of his own niece.

Yoshitatsu seems very satisfied and downed all of the victory wine in one gulp.

"Good job, you really forced Hanbei and her gang to retreat from here, Saruyashamaru-dono."

"Yesterday, no matter if it's about persuading Hanbei to join me, or narrowly eating the dung dango, it's all a failure. That is but one small payback."

Unexpectedly...

Asai Nagamasa sits beside Yoshitatsu with a relaxed face.

"Yoshitatsu-dono, after thinking about the alliance with the Oda clan, I Nagamasa am fed up with that undecided foolish princess. As of now, please take good care of me."

"Hmmm. Saruyashamaru-dono, don't tell me this is also a payback to the Oda Nobuna who is not responding to your advances?"

Though with a height of 6 foot 5 inches and a face that is totally fated to not have any love experience, Yoshitatsu isn't stupid.

"What do you mean?"

"If that foolish princess managed to absorb Mino into the influence of Owari, she will be a world renowned daimyo. If that's the case, there won't be any need to be the wife of Saruyashamaru-dono. In contrast to that, if that happens, Saruyashamaru-dono will be slightly inferior when compared to the Oda clan. So, to prevent this Inabayama castle who is controlled by Hanbei to fall into the hands of the Oda clan, at the situation where you failed at persuading Hanbei, you plan to let me gain back this fortress, isn't it?"

The so called doing others a favor, in fact, all of it is spot on by Yoshitatsu.

"This face which totally lacks any artistic value, and with that size, actually matches Dousan in terms of intelligence." Nagamasa feels fear in his heart, but still maintains a calm face.

"Saruyashamaru-dono, even without Hanbei, as long as I avoid open warfare, this Inabayama castle has no weakness. That foolish Nobuna will definitely be disdained after failing the last time, while thinking who to look for help. I believe the pair of you will become a couple very soon."

"Hmmm. At that time, we might just combine forces and attack Inabayama castle, is this really okay?"

"Of course. It's different if the Oda clan has Hanbei, but this fortress will never fall."

"Hmmm, you have a point."

"Looks like the fact that I'm holding Ando Iga as a hostage has not been discovered, if so, Hanbei will definitely serve me one day." Nagamasa

laughed in his heart while letting out a sign of relief, but he does not know the fact that the Hanbei now is already by Yoshiharu's side.

There might be a day when both of them will become enemies, while thinking that, both Saitou Yoshitatsu and Asai Nagamasa laugh with deep meaning and toast.

The enemy of yesterday can become today's friend, but it may become your enemy in the future.

This is the certainty in the Sengoku era.

Yoshitatsu's aides all signaled to Yoshitatsu with their eyes, Why not finish him off here?, but Yoshitatsu does not seem to think that way.

It's partly Nagamasa's effort for the reclaiming of Inabayama castle, and if Nagamasa died here, there won't be a chance for me to see that foolish princess of Owari being forced into a marriage she doesn't want, with that unwilling expression of hers.

"If she became the wife of the experienced Saruyashamaru, that willfull and foolish princess might know her limits and do her duty as a woman. After waking up from the unrealistic dream of conquering the world, she might be disdained and give up Mino."

Beneath this doodle-like face, Yoshitatsu has already predicted to that extent.

From Nagamasa's point of view, a man like Yoshitatsu who can become a capable Sengoku daimyo can be said to be lucky.

Even without the help of the strategist Hanbei, Yoshitatsu still has ways to protect Inabayama castle from the Oda army.

Nagamasa is certain that there is no other way other way for Nobuna than to obey his orders. It can be said that he has Owari in his hands now. From now on, as long as Omi and Owari allied together, sieging Mino with an all surround formation, there will be a day when Inabayama Castle will be his. During the day when he is climbing the castle, Nagamasa has already found every detail and structural information in this fortress.

In this world where wars are abundant, it's a place where you have to bluff and cheat your way through.

Towards Nagamasa who is said to be the reincarnation of ambition, there is no such thing as friendship in this world, nor are there things like romantic love or family loves. All he does is to rely on his naturally good looks, and use different girls and abandoning them without stopping. This kind way of doing things, is actually very similar to the young Viper, Saitou Dousan.

A person born in a daimyo family of the Sengoku era does not need love. The so called family members are nothing but chess pieces.

Now, Yoshitatsu banished his own godfather, and Nagamasa has also forced his useless father, Hisamasa, to retire and give up the position of head of the clan.

Even that Nobuna will one day give up on that childish dream of "marry the man I like", and come under me.

Not knowing why, the Nagamasa who had never had his heart moved by any female, wants to see the sobbing face of Nobuna when her dream is shattered.

Oda Nobuna and Sagara Yoshiharu, these two people who have totally different positions, always quarrel and throw curses at each other once they are together. But looking at the pure them, Nagamasa will always slip into a state of melancholy. This is because looking at these two people who have totally no regards of their relationship, will remind Nagamasa of his long forgotten, yet never really given up dream.

Asai Nagamasa isn't someone who just plays with women.

But the truth behind Nagamasa's long forgotten dream can never be known to others. Even to Nobuna who will soon be his wife, not a word can be spoken to her.

"Ara, tonight is really a night worth celebrating. To the prosperity of Saitou and the Asai clans, cheers!"

Notes

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

Note from Translator: This is a rough translation from the chinese raws we have. It is still under work and there will be lots of edits in the near future as i care more about bringing to readers the story rather than the correct use of vocab and grammar. If any readers have inputs and want to edit, please do so.

~Tarmade~

Chapter 4 : Sunomata Ichiya Castle!

After successfully taking back Inabayama Castle, Saitou Yoshitatsu soon put out search warrants for Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo in the towns.

Yoshiharu's face seemed just like an evil bandits and Inuchiyo was just portrayed as wearing a tiger helm.

"These people are in cahoots with Takenaka Hanbei who tried to revolt. In actual fact, they are spies sent from Owari."

With this poster, Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo became the masterminds and had bounties for their capture.

With this, it's impossible to wander around Mino.

To continue checking on Ando Iga's whereabouts, Yoshiharu lent Goemon and the Kawanami members to Hanbei. He and Inuchiyo rushed back to Owari's Kiyosu castle.

But.....

After returning to Aoshuu castle, not even a ronin was in sight.

Aoshuu had become a ghost town.

"What is going on, Inuchiyo?"

".....???"

Are the folks in the Five Leaf Aralia houses okay? The worried duo hurried over, but what greeted them was a shocking scene.

Shibata Katsuie was allowing Nene on her shoulders while she was commanding her troops to surround Yoshiharu's house. No matter how people see it, it's obvious that they are going to put the house on fire.

"Hurry and burn the house!"

"Understood!"

"Roger!"

A fiery scene...

Yoshiharu looked on as his small and cozy home was torched just like that.

With fury burning in his heart, he walk towards the back of the currently rambling "Why must I be tasked with such a job" Katsuie and does a Sagara family kick.

It landed nicely onto the butt of Katsuie.

"Wh-Wh-Wh-What are you doing, you damn saru?! Do you hold that much of a grudge to me?"

"That is what I should be saying! Don't burn my house just because I'm not in! Katsuie you... Just what deep hatred do you have against me.....!"

"I...I remember clearly, you are the one who molested my breasts at the previous battle. This kind of grudge can't be easily forgotten!"

"That happened during Okehazama, right!? But do you have to burn my house just because of that?"

".....Inuchiyo's house... is burning too."

"Katsuie~! This time round, I will definitely settle it right here! I will take revenge~!"

"Wh...Why are your hands suddenly aiming my breasts? Stop it, Saru! Ahhhhhh!"

"Isn't it because you burn my house.... But besides that, after looking at that ridiculous ball shaped thing, I don't know why I just want to touch and feel it!"

"Ahhhhh, why is this ero-saru suddenly in heat!?"

"Onii-sama. This is ordered by the princess." Nene who is riding on Katsuie's shoulders stopped Yoshiharu.

"Nobuna's orders? I get it now... That women finally decided to burn me to death, right!?"

"No!"

"Listen to me, Saru. During the period when you guys were out, Nobuna-sama decided to shift her base from Aoshuu to Komakiyama. The retainers had all been ordered to shift there too. So currently, those who had not shift over will have their house burned down."

"Though Nobuna has always been stubborn, this about burning down the house of retainers who refuse to move... There must be a limit to being rash!" Yoshiharu thought.

"Katsuie. So you choose my house to be your first target, right!?"

"What choice do I have!? Who is the one who caused Hime-sama to be fuming and keep muttering "Why isn't that Saru coming back? Why isn't that Saru coming back?"

"I'm not against moving, I'm just not at home."

"Onii-sama, Nene's oji-san had already moved to Komakiyama! Let's go together!"

".....Inuchiyo wants to go there too."

With Katsuie leading, they head towards Komakiyama.

"Anyway Katsuie, what sort of place is Komakiyama?"

"It's a fortress located at the north side of Aoshuu. Hime-sama said this will lead us closer to Mino."

"I see. So when marching troops to Mino, the distance will be greatly reduced."

"That stubborn old retainers kept saying things like 'Moving the base is something I've never heard of. At least give a one year deadline' and kept opposing. But all of them were outright rejected by Hime-sama, and we moved to Komakiyama on that exact day. After that, she asked me to burn the houses of those who refuse to move, that's it."

"Nobuna, what kind of arsonist are you?" Yoshiharu thought to himself.

"So Katsuie, compared to those old opposition folks, what's your reason for choosing my house to burn first?"

"You sure are irritating. I didn't plan to burn it with you inside anyway. What's so bad about it."

"It's totally not okay! Katsuie, looks like the both of us need to have a nice chat."

"You're a mere vice-captain, what makes you think that you can have anything to say about the No.1 aide of the Oda clan. Really, this damn Saru is totally rude."

Komakiyama, located at the northern side of Owari is not a very tall mountain and a secluded place.

But compared to Kiyosu castle which is right in the middle of Owari, this place is obviously much closer to Inabayama castle.

After suffering numerous ambushes from the Mino army, Nobuna ordered Niwa Nagahide to build a fortress in Komakiyama.

Once determined, Nobuna's action speed can only be described as lightning fast.

Not waiting for the construction of Komakiyama to be completed, Nobuna ordered all her retainers to shift from Aoshuu.

After reaching Komakiyama, Katsue gave Nene over to Goemon to look after, and dragged Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo over to Nobuna's room.^[17]

Though Nobuna's room wasn't completed, the hastily built room was already decorated with her favorite globe, tiger, bear skins were stretched out on the floor as carpets, and the foreign bought extra big world map was already on the wall.

Besides, as if she is peeking on Inabayama castle, her side has a big telescope too.

"Hime-sama! Sagara Yoshiharu and Maeda Inuchiyo are here!"

"Dearuka^[18]. Riku, thanks."

Letting out sounds of "Kasha, kasha" while eating her chicken wing, Nobuna had her eyebrows tightly knitted.

Looks like because she had not seen Yoshiharu for a period of time, her mood has taken a turn for the worse.

"Saru, Inuchiyo, what is this about?"

Nobuna raised the warrant that was pasted everywhere in Mino right up to Yoshiharu's face.

"This monkey face that looks totally like a bad guy, no matter how I see it, it's you. The mastermind of asking Hanbei to revolt..... has already been written here clearly. Besides, the identity of you being from Owari is totally exposed."

"No, that's because...."

"What the hell is going on, Saru? I'm saying things first, based on your explanation and the situation, your head might just be off your shoulders."

".....No! It's... like this."

"If I let that big mouthed Yoshiharu speak, Nobuna might become even more angry." Inuchiyo, noticing this, starts to explain things in simple sentences.

Though Inuchiyo didn't speak much, she had a thing for explaining the situation clearly.

Nobuna who took very good care of Inuchiyo, said "What am I to do with you, tell me first next time when you guys want to persuade someone to join us." and let things go.

"Hime-sama! A mere vice-captain who doesn't know his own strength and recklessly tried to persuade an enemy commander to join our side, and worst of all, failed and escaped back here. This kind of damned Saru, don't tell me you are not even going to punish him!?"

"Our princess is once again biased towards that damn Saru!" Katsuie rambled on and on. Nobuna being rattled till she can't bear it, hold onto her sword and said in a loud voice.

"I get it already, Riku. Saru, come over for a talk."

"What's with the female gang boss action?" Yoshiharu scratched his head while following Nobuna's lead.

"Wait a minute, Hime-sama?! You are really going to let this damn Saru off without any punishment? Don't tell me now you guys are going on a sweet date.....? Let me tag along too!"

".....Katsuie, Wait here."

Inuchiyo hugged Katsuie who is rushing to follow them, and Katsuie tries to break free while shouting "Let me go!"

Without any reason, it has suddenly become a wrestling showdown between the two of them in the room.

Not considering the difference in body size, the breast size is totally different, making this showdown expectantly good.

"Ohhhhh....Inuchiyo, your waist is unexpectedly heavy.....!"

".....Katsuie's breast, so heavy. Makes me furious!"

"Ehhhhh!? Why, why must everyone of you be angry at me!?"

".....Touch them yourself to know why!"

"I don't understand a thing!! What's going on? Is there a problem with my personality?"

".....No problem with it, the problem lies with your chest."

"Ehhhh, what is going on.....!?"

"What's with the fuss outside. Those two sure are noisy."

Nobuna who is at the walkway, gazes at the plains stretching the whole of northern side from the top of Komakiyama. Different from the usual happy go lucky look, the Nobuna today is wearing a blue kimono. This type of attire can be worn with her armor once battle erupts and as normal clothing. There isn't much of a problem. Though this attire considers mobility, the Nobuna today does have a few points of feminine added to it.

Sitting at the side, Yoshiharu feels his heartbeat speed up without a reason.

"Don't tell me she became more sexy because of Nagamasa's proposal....
Damn it"

"You are a bit noisy too, Saru."

What Nobuna is looking at is the fast currents of the Kiso river and the combined wish of her father, Nobuhide and her, the yet defeated Inabayama castle.

Looking at Nobuna who keeps shifting her legs in frustration while looking through her telescope, her heart's impatience can be seen clearly.

Shifting her own base from Aoshuu to Komakiyama is also a physical representation of the impatience of Nobuna wanting to get near to Inabayama castle at all cost, no matter if it's just one or two small steps.

At this hastily built courtyard, if one looks clearly, they can find exact replicas of Mino's geography on a 3D model. The small water trenches must be the Nagara river and Kiso river. At the centre, the hill must be Mount Kinka. Nobuna looks at the model quietly, almost like she is thinking of ways to capture Mino.

"Even though I'm so close, I just can't get it."

"Eh? Isn't this about my punishment?" Sagara scratched his head, confused.

"Think of something."

"So....? Something? What about it?"

"No. I mean a plan. The plan to capture Inabayama castle! It's impossible to conquer that fortress with just shifting my home to a closer place! In the first place, the reason why I built a castle right here in Komakiyama is to find a weak spot in that mountain fortress.

"It didn't work out in the end?"

"Umm. In the end, Komakiyama which is like a small hill can not be compared to Mount Kinka. It can't be used in planning at all."

The famous work of Viper, Saitou Dousan, the famed castle, Inabayama castle.

Even without Takenaka Hanbei, the besieged Yoshitatsu can still easily force the Oda clan home. And even if Nobuna siege up at the town, she faces the danger of Dousan's designed night warfare.

"In terms of strategies, surrounding Inabayama castle and cutting the water supply is not such a bad idea."

"But even though we have Motoyasu to protect us from the east side, we can't just let Owari be empty for a long time."

"The most important thing is, once it is autumn, the field needs to be tended, right? So a drawn out battle is impossible. To an ordinary soldier, farming is what they should be doing. Even if they are warriors, there are

quite a number who are also farmers. Though I have also gather all the retainers to this town at the foot of Komakiyama and gather professional soldiers, but to build an always ready army is both time and money consuming."

"Besides, burning other people's home is a bit too much!" Yoshiharu grumbled unhappily.

"Saru, after listening to my great army restructuring plan, you should at least be more surprised."

"Aren't you the No. 1 Oda Nobuna? This kind of thing is a given for you."

"So boring. Though it will be troublesome if you are like Riku who said 'What are you saying, Hime-sama, I don't understand anything at all' with her teary eyes, but at least show some gratitude."

"Nobuna, for the Mino now which does not have Hanbei, I think it's far more important than you think. If we have to think of a way to capture Inabayama castle, it's not like there isn't a way..."

"What a slow and hesitating way of saying things." Nobuna's small lips formed a (^).

"Nowadays, you are always hesitating. Stop beating around the bush. If there's something you want to say, just say it out."

"The promise of a reward, don't you forget it."

".....I...I did not forget it at all."

Suddenly Nobuna's face blushed bright red and turned her head away in a hurry.

Yoshiharu did not mind too much of Nobuna's reaction. In his mind, he thinks of the extremely famous incident that he has seen numerous times in the sengoku SLG's greatest work, "Ambition of Oda Nobunaga".

The incident that leaves it's mark in the sengoku history, Kinoshita Tokichiro's "Sunomata Ichiya Castle".

This history incident is like this.

Oda Nobunaga who is prepared to conquer Mino, is determined to build a castle at the east side of Mino, Sunomata. But Sunomata itself is right inside the enemy's territory. All of Nobunaga's important generals had

failed, yet the inconspicuous Kinoshita Tokichirou used just a night's time to build it.

"Saru, I'm getting impatient. Just quickly say what you have in mind, but don't tell me things like 'building a castle in Sunomata'".

"Eh!? How did you know!?"

"If I can get a strategic foothold in Sunomata, the Mino people will be shocked and come running to me for help. But Yoshitatsu isn't an idiot. He will definitely stop us. So isn't things like that impossible?"

"Though dangerous, it's not totally impossible. I do have a secret plan from the sengoku game^[19]."

"You're gonna lose your life. This is a bet that you can't win."

"But there's no other way. For the promise of the reward, I won't back down."

"You? The you who does not have any one to command? How can you do it?"

"The Kawanami people will give me a hand. If this succeeds, remember to recruit them."

"Team up with those bandits? Really, they are quite strange."

"But I myself do not have too many manpower for you. Though I have Takechiyo guarding the east and west side, there has been a lot of tension with Ise on the east" Nobuna said.

"The recently recruited Koga warrior, Takigawa Kazumasu, is now near Ise's frontline. Who knows when they will start attacking the borders?"

"Such a thing happened when I'm out? You should really behave outside. You may just be someone who is 'soon to be married'. Learn how to control yourself a bit."

"Shut up. Why is a mere retainer being so arrogant? I must say it first, what I had in mind for now is just conquering Mino. I did not give a single thought about getting married. Anyways, the only man who is compatible to the smart, beautiful, demure, and no. 1 bishoujo like me can never be found in the world."

"Isn't there a Nagamasa?"

Nobuna glanced over, and sent a kick.

Yoshiharu reflexively dodged it easily.

"Hmph! The only things that guy is compatible are looks and status. Listen! Such a thing like status, is totally due to you being lucky that you are born of a distinguished family. Looks are the same..... Not saying about peaceful eras, but it's the sengoku era now. No matter the gender, what you should rely on is your own strength and ambitions. A thing like status is not important at all!"

Fuming, and putting on a face with her eyes shining by the light, it's almost as if Nobuna is shining.

"The one becoming my husband, if he's not someone that can see the same dream as mine, I would rather die than marry him."

Comparing this girl to the moon really is a mistake.

Her brightness and attractiveness is not something that the moon can be compared to.

"This pair of eyes which shines like the sun, I will definitely be scorched if I raise my hand towards her body", Yoshiharu thought.

"Following such a princess, I can die without regrets."

"That Nagamasa, isn't he just a sissy who holds great ambitions? 'A sengoku daimyo's marriage does not need love'? What is the matter with him!? God knows where he learned that from and who does he think he is? If he thinks that he can make my heart stir with just that, he is totally wrong! I'm Owari's foolish princess! If that kind of guy is considered mature, I do not want to be like that."

"Ah, hmmm..."

"Saru! Are you unmoved after letting that guy walk all over you? Your master is being belittled upon! Didn't you say you are here to fulfill my wish? If so, hurry and capture Mino for me!"

Don't know why, Nobuna's scolding towards Yoshiharu, seeps out a "If you don't want me to be snatched away by Nagamasa, then catch me yourself!" wish like this.

"No no, that's just my delusion. It must be because I'm away from girls too much because of Nene. That's why I'm under such mental stress! This world isn't a gal game or an ecchi anime, how can there be such a development?" Yoshiharu shakes his head in panic, while mumbling "Mi...Mino, I will definitely capture it."

"Why is your expression so mysterious? Look at me when you're talking."

Blushing, Nobuna comes near, with her face getting near, but Yoshiharu turns his face away in panic.

"Damn. The serious Nobuna is just so striking... Why, why is my heart beating so fast now...?"

"Sta...Status is not important..... You're the only one that will say this kind of thing. The retainers and the people won't think that way."

".....They are a bunch of idiots anyway, who cares what they think."

"This is your bad habit. This world has it's own regulations and stuff. If you don't consider the opinion of the majority and push your own strange reforms, there will be a day when your own retainers will attack you. It's exactly because of this that Dousan lost Mino."

"Hmph. I didn't expect you are the kind of man who will say such a boring thing."

"What I said just now are common sense. No matter when, oba-chan will stand by your side. No matter if it's the world, or love, I will help you obtain it. I will protect you, and then, I will let you shine in front of the whole world."

".....Eh.....?"

"How is it, are you moved by these childish words I said?"

".....Ah....."

Nobuna lowered her head, not speaking a word.

In an instant, a wave of embarrassment creeps silently between the two of them.

"That was the time you should retort! Why aren't you retorting like you usually are!?" Yoshiharu starts to panic in his heart.

"Anyway, I will build the castle in Sunomata." Yoshiharu said while standing up.

"Nobuna. I will definitely conquer Inabayama Castle. Once then, that promise of reward of anything I want, you must fulfill it for me! I should say it now, just a Nene following me all around is irritating enough, don't you give me another sister or brother, something like that, okay?"

".....Eh? Um...Ok...."

Nobuna nods her head honestly.

Though he felt strange about Nobuna's reaction, but the culprit Yoshiharu does not know what his own actions mean.

Totally not sensing the atmosphere, Yoshiharu leave these words while preparing to leave.

"....Hey, Nobuna. If I failed in capturing Mino, do you really plan to marry Nagamasa?"

".....Um. Since it is totally not related to you who is marrying a monkey as a wife."

"....Ah, I see. Hmmm, Is Hanbei-chan okay.... That child is such a crybaby, it makes me worried to part with her."

Kachak.

That's the sound of Nobuna's blood vessels on her head breaking.

".....so that's it. I see now. I almost forgot... Why do you get Takenaka Hanbei as your subordinate Ah?"

"Though a bunch of mishaps and misunderstandings had happened and caused a fuss, that child has actually no ambition to revolt."

"Anyway, what is going on when you did not bring Hanbei to me? Becoming your subordinate means that she rather be under a pet that I take care of than to be under me. Why did Hanbei refuse to come under me, isn't that too rude?"

"It's over. Hanbei-chan who is originally so afraid of Nobuna and Viper, if she was brought in front of the demon king mode Nobuna, it would be strange if she did not faint" Yoshiharu realized it at this time, "Damn, I said

the wrong thing when I should be saying things that the other party want to hear!" and regretted his actions.

"Ha...Hanbei-chan is currently searching for her uncle who was kidnapped by Asai Nagamasa. Because of the search warrant, Inuchiyo and I have to retreat for now, but Goemon and the Kawanami people are by Hanbei-chan's side....."

".....now that we talk about it, I heard from Inuchiyo that when you guys captured Inabayama castle, you were together with Hanbei, isn't it? Don't tell me..... you are planning to not let Hanbei be labeled as a traitor and so, you gave up that castle? You haven't forgotten about that reward, haven't you?"

Damn, she found out!

"No, it's not like this. If I just killed Hanbei who just declared that she has no intentions to revolt, and capture the castle, will you really be happy about it?"

"No. Actually, doing it like this fits your style more. But, for the sake of a girl, you gave up a whole fortress after gaining it with much difficulty.... You're really an idiot....."

"I...I'm the kind of guy who just won't give anything up! Don't lump me with Nagamasa that bastard! That maturity he said is actually throwing away what's most important!"

After a brief silence, Nobuna open her mouth and calmly said, ".....I've decided to marry Asai Nagamasa."

.....

.....

Ehhhhh?

Wait... Why? What happened?

×○△××□Uwahhhh××●¥ ¥ ! ? ! ? ! ?

Yoshiharu opposed with unknown sounds.

Looks like he finally mastered the monkey language.

"Didn't you hear Inuchiyo's report? That guy, after failing to persuade Hanbei and capturing Inabayama castle, he kidnapped Hanbei-chan's father! He is that kind of dirty bastard who played with women's hearts for his own motives."

"For the sake of unifying the world, it's ok to marry such a man. Besides, you are just a naive idiot, plus you chose Hanbei over me, right?"

"Hu...Huh!?"

"I....I...It does not mean that I want you to be my husband, I'm just saying only. If I marry someone like you who keeps flirting everywhere, you will one day give up a country or castle due to a girl, isn't it!? If that's the case, until when can I fulfill the wish of uniting the world! Rather than the world, I can't even conquer Mino, isn't it!?"

"Oi, don't tell me you are throwing a tantrum just because I gave up Inabayama castle to save Hanbei-chan? Why are you so petty!?"

"It's not like that! IDIOT!"

Nobuna's voice start to shake.

"What... What I want is, to retrieve Mino when Viper is still alive! After being banished from Mino, Viper is aging day by day... Definitely... it must be... his days are numbered! He spent his life contributing to Mino, I do not want him to die banished in Owari! Only me... and not Yoshitatsu, I'm the only one to which Viper can pass his dream on to... I want to prove to him, that his choice isn't wrong! I don't want him to regret over his decision!"

All of a sudden, Yoshiharu is stumped.

That's why, so that's why Nobuna is so anxious and fretful.

If it's the old Nobuna, during the time when Asai Nagamasa proposes, she will reject it saying "I want to marry the man I love."

But she did not even send out a rejection letter for Nagamasa's proposal, and recklessly rush into Mino letting her troops getting beaten up by Hanbei before retreating, and then, leaving Aoshuu, moving to Komakiyama, Nobuna's persistence towards Mino is totally like a scorching fire.

Something had changed inside Nobuna. Standing in front of him, is no longer the Nobuna from before.

This change, including the reason for the change.....

He wasn't able to understand..... he was not even given a chance to.

Besides apologizing, there was nothing he can do.

"Besides, compared to Inabayama castle, isn't Hanbei more important? So as to say, if I can't conquer Mino and had to marry Nagamasa in the end, you don't care in the least, right!? Since you have chosen Hanbei yourself, then just shut your mouth honestly!"

"Eh? I chose Hanbei-chan? What do you mean?"

"Haven't you been totally mesmerized by Hanbei!? Isn't Hanbei more important than me?"

"Wh...Wh...Wh...What you just said is a big misunderstanding!"

"You are the one who is misunderstanding, Saru! Besides, what makes you, a mere monkey, have the right to say anything about my marriage? Who do you think you are to me, I'm Owari's hime daimyo, Oda Nobuna!"

"I know that without you saying!"

"You have forgotten about the reward? If that's the case... aren't I..... just like an idiot!?"

"Eh.....? Nobuna?"

Nobuna straighten 3 fingers and said.

3 days later.

"I'm not a dilly-dallying women! I've decided! In three days, I will marry Omi's Asai Nagamasa!"

"Oi, what you mean by three days!? Such a rash decision...!? No, definitely no! No matter what, you can't marry that kind of a guy in a spat of anger!"

"Shut up! All of this is caused by you not capturing that fortress! So shameless to act suave in front of both Hanbei and me! In the future, just protect that cute little kitten Hanbei and live the rest of your life!"

"Nnnnnnnno, it's not that kind of relationship with Hanbei-chan and me! It's all a misunderstanding! Don't tell me..... you're jealous?!"

Bam!!!!

Nobuna stepping her foot onto Yoshiharu's face, she used her whole body strength and stepped on it!

"Uwahhh!? Ouuccchhhh! Damn, don't step on my face! I'm just trying to stop your marriage! As a revenge for you not giving me the number 1 bishoujo, I will definitely stop your happiness! I haven't given up yet, just you wait. I will definitely stop this marriage for you to see!"

"Oh, I see! If you wish so strongly to stop me from marrying, then capture Inabayama castle in 3 days for me!"

"Ok, I will definitely use my own strength and capture it for you to see!!!!!"

Just when the both of them finish quarreling and Yoshiharu left...

Katsuie and the retired Saitou Dousan came to Nobuna's side one after the other, it seems like the both of them overheard the conversation between Nobuna and Yoshiharu.

"Dumb... too dumb! How can you choose the marriage with Asai Nagamasa just because you can't think of a way to capture Mino! To do such a foolish thing just because of the territory of Mino....."

Dousan-jiisan's face seems furious almost like he might have a stroke and died right away.

"Nobuna-dono. This look of yours, I can't bear it anymore!

Don't tell me he heard the conversation with Yoshiharu? A slightly embarrassed Nobuna stuttered and said, "Sh...Shut up Viper. It's my own freedom who I want to marry!"

"No! Though it's just in name but I'm still your father, just this I cannot allow! Though Asai Nagamasa is a distinguished sengoku daimyo, he's just a guy who is a bit smart but did not see the big picture! It's okay if it's just an alliance partner, but as a husband, he does not suit you! Besides, it impossible for you to love that guy!"

"I can't help it! There is no one in the world that is compatible with me, so I can only choose this kind of political marriage!"

"....You... idiotic brat!!!!!"

Dousan's high decibel shout, makes Nobuna take a few steps back without knowing it.

"The man who suits you, isn't he right beside you!? To help you in your destiny, isn't there a guy who passed through time and space to come to your side!? Don't act dumb with me! How can you destroy your own future over a bout of foolish jealousy?! Don't tell me the so esteemed Oda Nobuna is just an inexperienced brat!?"

".....Uhhhh..... Shut up Shut up Shut up! Stupid Viper!"

"I will not accept any more positions." After saying this, Viper left!

"....Hmph.... What a temper, that's why I hate geezers!"

Nobuna stood in the courtyard silently, staring at the little Inabayama castle.

Katsuie who is at the side suddenly kneels down by Nobuna's legs, sobbing while saying, "To give up your chastity just to fulfill your filial duties... and to get reprimanded like that... *sob sob* Hime-sama is just too pitiful! That thing about Sunomata castle, please do allow me Katsuie to complete it for you!"

"Eh, but.... that has been given to Saru....."

"I, Shibata Katsuie, will definitely build it up in three days! And then, I will save Hime-sama from the evil hands of Nagamasa! I'm moving out now to Sunomata, pardon me, Hime-sama!"

"Ah... Wait... Riku?"

If this goes on, Hime-sama.....Hime-sama will be snatched away by Asai Nagamasa~

The general who is overly anxious of her master, Shibata Katsuie, who did not listen to Nobuna's and Nagahide's persuasions, immediately gathered her own men, beat up Yoshiharu who kept rambling "Why are you snatching my job?" and left for Sunomata.

An estimate of 3000 soldiers and workers of up to 5000.

Though non-combat personnel makes up over half of the troops, but it's still a 8000 strong army.

"People, gather your courage~! If we fail, the beautiful Nobuna-sama will be dirtied by Asai Nagamasa~!"

If Saru failed the mission of building a castle in Sunomata, Hime-sama will be Asai Nagamasa's wife.

But if that damn Saru managed to build it up and capture Mino, Hime-sama might become Saru's wife due to the reward promise.

No matter which, I don't want it!

"If that's the case, there isn't any other way then me to build the castle! If I capture Mino, and fulfill the promise of the reward, Hime-sama will be mine.... Eh.... What the hell am I thinking?!"

"If the Mino troops dare to stop me, I will let them become souls under my spear! " Katsuie, filled with fierce killing aura, sneaked into Mino's territory, Sunomata. But the location of Sunomata is at Kawakokoro Island which is formed near where the rivers meet, including Nagara river.

At this type of geographical disadvantage, the castle construction troops have to face the enemy with their backs to the river. Add that to the muddy riverbank making movement difficult, it's an extremely dangerous battleground which limit troops's maneuverability severely.

Even if it's Owari's number 1 general, Shibata Katsuie, building a castle in this kind of place can't be done by someone with just effort.

But even if it's like this, Katsuie will never back down!

At the front of the flood-like Mino army, Katsuie commanded the troops while shouting to the troops, "Guys, we will protect Hime-sama~! Even if death awaits us, we will die for Hime-sama~!"

Shibata Katsuie is just such a general whose brain is filled with loyalty and righteousness.

The sobbing Katsuie who fled back to Komakiyama, happens 2 days later.

Kneeling in front of Nobuna, she reported her failure.

"Th...The first day, was still considered smooth.... But we were ambushed by Saito's forces on the second day making the battlefield a mess. Though the troops bravely faced the enemy, the workers were all terrified and fled!"

"It's just a day before the marriage with that damn Asai Nagamasa! Let me commit seppuku!" The totally confused Katsuie started to make a scene. In the end, she was stopped by the smiling Nagahide, "Maa, it's all ok~."

"It's thanks to Katsuie-dono's strength and flexible command that we can avoid annihilation. But the workers who fled will be afraid of us punishing them and won't return most likely. 40 points."

Sitting cross legged, with a chicken wing in her mouth, Nobuna let out a sigh.

".....I received the letter from Asai Nagamasa. He will bring his troops over to Owari to prepare for the wedding."

Though Nobuna's tone is light, it's clear that she was feeling very down about such a decision, while her face looks almost close to tears. Looking at Nobuna, Katsuie starts to weep even more.

"Uwaahhhhh. I think I should just commit seppuku after all~~!"

"....Stop it, Riku. If you are dead, not to mention conquering Mino, even the protection of Owari will become a problem. From now on, don't think about seppuku anymore."

"Ahh! Hi...Hime-sama.... You're too kind....! I Katsuie, in this life, even if it's my last breath, I will always follow Hime-sama!"

"Ok ok I got it, don't keep saying things like that."

"Katsuie is really a muscle head^[20]." Yoshiharu whispered to Inuchiyo.

"What? A new form of Kimono? Inuchiyo don't understand"

Yoshiharu, after fainting from the beating from Katsuie, was unconscious for two days. After finally waking up with difficulty, there was only a day left until the deadline to conquer Mino.

Nobuna's eyes swept over the people present, while the people all lowered their head without a word.

A mission that even Katsuie was unable to finish, it's too difficult for the rest. Add that to the workers having all fled, it's impossible to just send out troops and rely on soldiers to build the castle.

"Well, let's just put aside building a castle in Sunomata. Though it's hard to accept, but it looks like I can only marry Nagamasa."

"Wait just a minute! Nobuna! Didn't I tell you that I will build the castle up for you to see!?"

Yoshiharu who is sitting at the back suddenly stood up and said.

"Damn, this skit of Hime-sama and that damn Saru is about to begin again." Katsuie just can't accept it.

But Nobuna did not retort back like usual.

"Saru. Sorry but we just don't have enough manpower now, such a thing can't be helped, isn't it?"

"Don't just give up! And I do not plan to bring anyone else anyway! Just the Kawanami people will be enough to build that castle!"

"But even though with the lack of manpower, this castle's 3000 strong guarding troops can still be lent to you, but I think no one will listen to a lowly rank person like you."

"I don't need anything like that!"

"Huh? What are you saying? Don't tell me you really are courting death!?"

"No. If I bring so many people to Sunomata, the enemy will definitely notice it!" Yoshiharu blinked and said, "So, just us and the Kawanami clan is enough."

"With so little people, do you really think you can finish it in one night?"

"Yeah. I will build the Sunomata castle in one night. By then, Yoshitatsu will definitely not know that it's nothing but a empty castle and sent all his troops out to attack in panic. Once it happens, you just have to strike in full force, moving out and attack the now empty Inabayama castle from Komakiyama. With that Mino can be captured within a day."

"In a day? Without any soldiers or able men? Is Saru-dono committing suicide?" The retainers started talking among themselves.

"You damn Saru should keep sleep talking to a limit!" Katsuie said with her eyebrows knitted closely.

"Hi...Hime-sama, that's just too crazy! It will be like Saru is running to his death! Er... But to me, Saru's death means that the chastity of Hime-sama will be safe.... but if I think back, I will definitely have nightmares."

"Why do you always talk about my chastity, Riku? Anyway, if I believe this kind of nonsense from Saru, won't I be like an idiot. As expected I should just ask Nagamasa for reinforcements."

"Oioi, wait Nobuna! Between me and that sissy, exactly who do you believe!?"

"Huh? Isn't that sissy you? Don't tell me you don't know about it?"

"Such a marriage does you no benefit at all! Nagamasa just wants to use you and this marriage to obtain both Owari and Mino! If you do something like this, will the Viper really be glad!?"

"What choice do I have!? I don't care if you wanna die in Sunomata, but if even more precious troops fled due to this, I will be very troubled, isn't it?"

"I already said I don't need any troops! So even if I failed, what will you lose!?"

"Ahhhh. Such a painful expression that Nobuna-sama has, and her blushing face..... As expected she wants Saru to stop her marriage with Nagamasa....." Katsuie starts weeping again,

"Besides, didn't you say yourself you want to kill me!"

"Ki...Killing you is what I want, but asking my men to go ahead with a mission that is doomed for failure will put a dent on my reputation, right?"

"Shut up! Just let me go and build the castle!"

"Ahhh, really, just how dumb are you! Don't tell me you lose all your reasoning due to me marrying Nagamasa? Not bringing any troops to Sunomata, do you know how dangerous it is? If it fails, you will definitely lose your life!"

"Wh-Wh-Wh-Wh-Why am I so anxious? Wh...Wh...Wh...Who cares about your marriage! I...I...I...I... I am not an...an...an...anxious at all."

"You see your face, it's as red as a Japanese monkey!"

"Damn! Isn't that due to my anger! Who is the stupid princess that makes me so angry that my whole face turns red"

"Uwahhhhh. The two of you... Why is the relationship between you guys so good... Ever since she decided to marry with Nagamasa, Hime-sama has been sighing all day.....To think that she can be so spirited... Ahhhhhh~!"

Katsuie, making a scene from her weeping...

"With this standard, going to Kyoto to form skits should not be a problem....." Inuchiyo nods to herself at the side. "Ah, Onee-sama and Saru-kun's quarrel begins yet again. When will it end this time?"

"This might be Hime-sama's last period of peace, just let them quarrel it out." Nobukatsu and Nagahide whisper among themselves.

"Saru, I won't stop you since you've said too much! But, don't count on me to send you any reinforcements!"

"Ohh, I don't need any reinforcements! Even if I'm surrounded by the enemy, you definitely can't send anyone out! And you must never ask Nagamasa that bastard for any troops!"

"Huh? Don't kid yourself! Why must the great me help you to that extent!?"

"The reward, don't you forget about it!"

"You sure are noisy. That kind of thing, wait till you have conquered Inabayama castle!"

"Hmph!"

"Hmph!"

The two who are staring at each other, quarrel to the point where their face are almost pasted together.

From their point of view, this might just be their last quarrel, their hearts are filled with longing.

But, there isn't anymore time to waste.

In the end, both of them turned their backs to each, and parted with a snort.

Returning to his small house, Yoshiharu gathered Goemon and the Kawanami clan and explained to them his once in a life time gamble, the plan of "Sunomata Ichiya Castle"

"Sagara-shi, having too many desires isn't a simple thing." Goemon said with a deep meaning.

"Goemon, was Ando-jiisan found in the end?"

"I've separated the Kawanami clan to a few parties, they are currently searching."

"Don't tell me he had been finished off...."

"If he was killed, Asai-shi will forever be treated as Takanaka-shi's enemy, so I think he won't~nya."

"I see... That makes sense."

"Anyway, Nobuna-dono seems very angry. Now we don't even have troops, cyan(can) we do it~nya?"

It seems like Goemon's habit of biting her tongue can't be cured.

"But what do we do with Takenaka-shi that the Kawanami is prothecting(protecting)? The strategist that we finally have, doHn't (don't) tell me we are not hoing(going) to use her~nya?"

"Yeah. In the end Hanbei-chan used to be under Yoshitatsu, I don't want to add to her troubles."

"Sagara-si is too doting on Takanaka-si."

"And, I have the confidence to succeed with just us."

"Hmmmm. There must be a plan then, Sagara-shi."

"Of course, Goemon."

Goemon's assistant, the bulky leader, Maeda threw Sunomata's map at Yoshiharu, and said fiercely.

"Now we can be warriors right, mister?"

Because this mission concerns Nobuna's greatest dream, Yoshiharu did not back down at all.

"Yeah. I will definitely recruit all of you as warriors. But I must say first, the job this time might be fatal, will you do it!?"

The macho men with Maeda as lead celebrated.

"Of course we'll do it! Besides us, who will protect our leader!"

"Leader's fair and smooth skin!"

"Not even a scratch!"

"Will be there!"

"Hey, why are a bunch of macho guys with an evil face all lolicons!?"

Yoshiharu explained the whole plan in simple terms.

"Though this plan was originally by Tokichirou-jiisan, but we are going to change to a two-by-four method to implement it.

"Tool?"

"Bye?"

"Pho....?"

"In the world I live, this is a very common way of construction. In this world, for construction, you always build it from the ground up right? That's why it's too time-consuming. The so called two-by-four method, is to build the construction materials somewhere else, and then think of some way to assemble them together. If that's the case, building a fortress in a day isn't such a big deal."

"What a brilliant plan, but..."

Goemon tilt her small head.

"Such heavy parts, how are we going to transport them to Sunomata?"

"This will need the strength of you the Kawanami people. After using the wood to build the parts in the upper part of Kiso river, we will transport them with rafts. This should be pretty easy for you thieves right?"

In this era, the river current of Kiso river is slightly different, and Sunomata lies right in the middle of the intersection of the Nagara river and Kiso river.

Maeda let out an angry voice.

"Mister, don't ask such an impossible thing. Kiso river is famous for its rapid currents!"

"Yeah! We might just lose our lives!"

"It is easy to plan it out, but doing it is a different thing all together!"

Goemon suddenly snaps her fingers.

"Uhhh. Using the rapid currents of Kiso to transport parts, with this way, the speed of building will be further indreased(increased). What a brilliant plan, Sagara-si."

"Yosh, the leader bite her tongue again!" Maeda and his team starts to clap and cheer.

"Yes yes, what a marvelous plan!"

"Mister, you sure are a genius!"

"Our lives are all yours now, mister!"

"Don't you bunch of lolicons have your own opinions at all!?"

Just like that.....

The famous legend of "Sunomata Ichiya Castle" unfolded right here.

The high speed plan of building the castle frame and the arrow tower at the upper drifts of Kiso river, and then transport them to Sunomata during the night, and finally assembling them together.

Kinoshita Tokichirou, using this plan had his name remembered throughout the different warring states, started the route of his exciting life.

But, will it be that smooth?

If it failed, what awaits him is only death. His own life isn't important, but if it happens, Nobuna will be snatched away by Asai Nagamasa.

"If that's the case, there won't be any meaning for me to come to this era.....I've taken an oath, that girl's dream, I will definitely fulfill it for her! Asai Nagamasa said before, for girls, just using the word dreams will have them listen to you."

But, Yoshiharu didn't think so.

Doing that is a mistake. It definitely is.

What a girl really wants is never cheap things like sweet talking. Just purely letting the opposite party immerse herself in dreams, it should never be a thing that men should do. A dream is a thing that should be fulfilled. For a girl's dream, you should have the resolve to even forsake your life.

In the shade of the night, Goemon and party left for Sunomata on a raft. Yoshiharu's heart has never before beat so loudly.

"The same time tomorrow, Nagamasa and Nobuna will hold their wedding at Komakiyama. There is totally no time. Can they really conquer Inabayama castle in just one day?" Yoshiharu is terribly anxious.

"Damn, I'm so nervous that I can't feel my limbs.

"Hehe. During periods like this, just write the character of 'man' and swallow it~nya."

"Ohh, it's here again, the leader bit her tongue again!"

"So unbearable!"

"I became a bandit for this exact moment!"

"Why are you people always like this! Quiet down a little!"

At this era, the Kiso river has a terrifyingly quick current, Yoshiharu almost fell from the raft a couple of times. It's lucky that Goemon managed to always hold him back while hugging him with a blushing face. But the Kawanami macho men gang always let out their "Die!" "Go and rot in hell, Sagara Yoshiharu!" "How dare you getting hugged by the leader's small hands....Oh...how envious!" nasty sentiments.

"Sagara-shi. We reached Sunomata.... Let's get it up before(before) the sun comes up!

"Yes, mister, let's get this castle up in one go!"

"....Right. From now on, time is of the essence!" Yoshiharu said in a small tone.

I will not give anything up.

It has started.

Sunomata Ichiya Castle

First, we should use the fence and round up the perimeter, and then assemble the buildings that will be used to defend against any Mino attack.

There's only the Kawanami people on his side.

The construction progress began unexpectedly smooth,

But, it seems like the luck has ran out.

Once the sun rose from the east, the construction party was seen totally by the Mino army at Inabayama castle.

"Oh no!"

"If we allow them to build the castle up, all will be gone!"

In an instant, the panicking Mino army rushes at them like a flood.

A total of 1000, 2000 no, an estimate of 8000 men strong army.

At the face of the 8000 men army, with Nobuna not sending out any reinforcements at the back.

"Tokichirou-jiisan just needs to build the castle, but I need to conquer Inabayama castle too. I must think of a way to delay the Mino army to create a chance for Nobuna to attack Inabayama castle."

Yoshiharu who had climbed the watch tower shouted "Now is the critical moment!" while the enemy troop's arrows flew by his head like a bunch of bees.

"What do we do, mister. Estimated time to completion is less than an hour!"

"Even if the fence is strong, the troop's difference is just too different. If the enemy use all their strength to attack, it can't hold!"

"Just a little bit. Put in more effort, the castle is about to be completed now! Once then, Nobuna will use this opportunity to attack the empty Inabayama castle."

"But mister, if this goes on, we're gonna lose our lives!"

"Yes, we should retreat now!"

"Hurry and retreat!"

At this instant, his ears rang out Asai Nagamasa's irritating laughter. Even though he didn't want to give anything up..... but he couldn't do it. In the end, it's just a kid's bashful and childish action.

"Sagara-shi. I will think of something here! Go now!"

Goemon takes out a ninja blade from her back and jumps down the tower and into the enemy formation.

Throwing a smoke grenade onto the incoming Mino army and slash her way in.

"Uwahhhh, leader! Are you trying to let leader die!?!?"

"No matter if the enemy is thousands or ten of thousands, I will definitely stop them here!"

"Guys! Right here is the best chance we bandits can become warriors, charge!"

"Uwahn, where the hell did the opinions of you people go!?"

Though the Kawanami clan are good in guerrilla techniques, but in the end, the numbers were too overwhelming.

And more than half of the Kawanami clan are still building the castle, no matter how strong Goemon and them are, it's too reckless to stop the Mino army which have 8000 men.

"Wait Goemon, don't die so easily!"

Yoshiharu lifted his spear and rushed to the battlefield too, trying his best to dodge the enemies' attacks and cover Goemon.

Though he hates fighting, Yoshiharu didn't want to abandon Goemon.

"This is just my selfish actions, how can I let you die for such a reason!"

Yoshiharu swung the spear with all his might, as if using up all the strength in his body.

"Goemon!"

"Da...Danger, Sagara-shi!"

The sound of the musket going off...

No matter how skillful Yoshiharu is in dodging, he can never dodge a musket bullet.

"I'm going to get hit." Yoshiharu shut his eyes, thinking all is over, but the bullet mysteriously never hit its target.

".....Uhhnyaa..."

Goemon came in between the bullet and Yoshiharu.

While opening his eyes, the small body of Goemon falls into the arms of Yoshiharu.

"Go...Goemon?"

".....Sagara-shi.....Are...Are you alright?"

"Goemon.....! Don't die!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

".....It's ok like this....As expected... It's not a good thing to desire so much....."

"Oi, Goemon! This isn't real, right? Don't scare me, Oi!?"

".....A male.... there will be a day.....where you must have..... the strength to choose, Sagara-shi....."

".....Goemon?"

No reaction.

It's as if Goemon was sleeping while her eyes were close. Yoshiharu hugged Goemon's small body and shouted like a manic, "It shouldn't be like this.....!"

In the game, history isn't like this.

Even though we build the castle in a day, yet it didn't succeed.

Goemon who believed in him the most, died just like that in his arms.

"Even though I knew the way to build from the start, even though I haven't even cheated, don't tell me Sunomata Ichiya castle can't be built.....!?"

Goemon had died for him.

As expected, I don't have the talent to replace Tokichirou-jiisan.

As expected, I can't fulfill Nobuna's dream.

To protect Nobuna's dream, I've lost Goemon... To want something, one must lose something first. This might be the law in this era.

But, the me now is still living in this world!

Even if I'm the last one standing, I won't give up, this is the battle for Goemon!

Yoshiharu roared and ran, all the while carrying Goemon's small body, rushing towards the 8000 men strong army.

"Damn! You bunch of bastards!!!!"

The result of not wanting to give anything up, might just mean having to give everything up.

But, at that moment...

"Ta...Takenaka Hanbei Shigetora, under the name of justice..... No, more than justice, is here to help.....!"

"Oh~! Zenki pays his respects!"

"Gouki pays his respects!"

"The twelve heavenly knights pay their respects! Because the names are too long, so we won't report it!"

"He...He...He...Head of Mino three, Ando Iga is here to help due to no other choice... *Sob sob*"

Hanbei, leading the rest of the Kawanami clan is once again on her small pony, while commanding the troops. The shikigami army as well as the Kawanami who had finally saved Ando Iga starts their attack on the Mino army from the back.

"Ohhh....Hanbei, you've betrayed me as expected! You traitor!"

The big bulky man right in the middle of the Mino army, Saitou Yoshitatsu stares at Hanbei, and shouted.

But Hanbei did not cry, nor show a hint of fear.

With ease, she command her troops to attack using the eight diagrams battle array, while she herself served as the vanguard towards the Mino army.

"Although I'm indebted to you, I've decided I will contribute all of my knowledge and strategies to Yoshiharu-san! Even if I have to bear the name of traitor, I won't regret this!

The usual Hanbei who was usually so scared of macho men, was acting as if she was a different person. She was exuding lots of confidence and passion on the battlefield.

The talents of Hanbei as a strategist and her strength as an Omyouji, the Mino warriors had already experienced themselves. They were all shocked by the turn of events and sat on the ground senselessly.

Even Nobuna who had defeated the strongest bow, Imagawa Yoshimoto, was played around like a child by Hanbei, add that to her just conquering Inabayama castle with just 17 subordinates, the reputation of Hanbei had already spread around Mino.

Plus, the selfless heart which returns the fortress untouched back to Yoshitatsu, she can be called an unparalleled general.

But this Hanbei, having the resolve of becoming a traitor, risked herself to save Sagara Yoshiharu who is still an unknown vice-captain.

The Mino army goes into total disarray after the assault of Takenaka Hanbei and Ando Iga, and Yoshitatsu's base is broken through by Hanbei's shikigami immediately. The soldiers had lost all their morale, and even their battle formations are messed up.

"To think that even Ando Iga has.....", Yoshitatsu gashed his teeth.

"Ando Iga! You are also one of the people who benefited from getting the throne back from my father. How dare you betray me!" "I...I...I Ando Iga had no intentions to betray! Definitely not! Bu...But, Hanbei...Hanbei....."

Looks like after getting saved by Hanbei and the Kawanami clan, Ando Iga was totally swept away by his own niece's determination, and had to agree to stand on Yoshiharu's side, albeit unwillingly.

The head of the Mino Three has surrendered to the Oda!

This news spread like wildfire to the other two of the Mino Three.

Being called "Stubborn like a rock" by his peers, the stubborn Inaba Itetsu.

And though without any nickname, the muscled old man, Ujiie Bokuzen.

Both of them aren't people that are easily swayed by the situation, but both of them had immense respect for Hanbei. Though it's lucky that both of them aren't lolicons. No matter if it's the brilliant strategies that repelled the

fierce Oda army both times they attacked, or the gracious act of returning the fortress untouched, all of it has scored high points towards Hanbei. Both of them had determined that if she met the suitable master, Hanbei will definitely calm this sengoku era, and will become a person that fits the name of "Current Zhuge Liang"

It's a pity that Yoshitatsu does not have the capacity for Hanbei.

If Hanbei disappeared from this world, this era might just remain like this. Once both of them thought of this, they sighed together.

But after looking at Hanbei now, "After knowing that they are outnumbered, Hanbei still tried to help. It seems like this Sagara Yoshiharu is quite capable."

"Look, Hanbei's expression, it's almost like a different person. It looks like she finally met her true master and flew to the sky!", the both of them whispered to each other and start to change sides against Yoshitatsu.

"Inaba Itetsu, will fight for Sagara-dono right now!"

"Ujiie Bokuzen Naomoto, will join Sagara-dono too!"

With this, the troops from both sides are almost even.

No, Yoshitatsu who had lost all morale is now under an immense disadvantage.

But even in this situation, Yoshitatsu still shouted "I'll fight it out with you!" The 6 foot 5 inched tall man swung his sword like a demon and beat the incoming soldiers into the ground.

Hanbei rides her pony in the battlefield while dodging repeatedly while finally running into the almost completed Sunomata castle. Yoshiharu also swung the spear in his hands while covering Hanbei back to the castle.

"Gu...Guys! I will now set up the eight diagrams array with this castle in the centre!"

"Hanbei-chan, thank you so much! But, Goemon....."

"Yoshiharu-san, all living beings die. Please leave your sadness for later. Now we must think carefully how to live on."

A slightly pale Hanbei used her whole strength and shouted to Yoshiharu. On her small face, there was a never seen before loneliness.

But what is the reason behind the expression. Yoshiharu did not have the time to think about it on the battlefield.

Both armies clashed fiercely in this small battlefield, and soon, the time of the day is afternoon.

"I will definitely not lose! Only I am fit to be the master of Mino! No matter if it's Otou-sama, or that foolish princess, as long as I have one breath left, you people will never take Mino away from me."

With his huge monster-like body and his fierce determination, Yoshitatsu managed to gather up the confused Mino army and get them into formation.

"If we let the enemy in front of us escape, we will definitely be swallowed whole by Yoshitatsu." Such a fear forces soldiers of the Mino army to launch an offensive again and again.

"The Yoshitatsu abandoned his human exterior and changed into a monster. He won't listen to anything we said."

Hanbei had used all her strength. The long duration of the battle had caused a huge burden to her small body seeing that she is coughing non-stop on her stool.

"Are you alright, Hanbei-chan? If you're tired, rest for a while first."

".....No. We can't back down anymore."

"Though it's like this, don't force yourself."

But.

No matter how Hanbei tried to command,

Yoshiharu's troops at Sunomata is slowly getting pushed back by the Mino army.

Just when the gates of Sunomata were almost being broken through...

At the back of Yoshiharu comes an ever so familiar voice....

"Sunomata castle is almost complete! Guys, full force onto the Mino army!"

Wearing her foreign styled armor, the leading Nobuna rushes over.

"This girl.....! Why did she come? Go and attack Inabayama castle! What the hell are you doing!?"

Following Nobuna close by.....

"To recover the reputation for failing to build the Sunomata castle, Shibata Katsuie pays her respects! Follow Hime-sama and attack~!"

"Owari's bishounen, Oda Nobukatsu is here! Saru-kun, leaving me alone is rude of you, isn't it!?"

"Looking at the overwhelming stance of the Owari Army, the Mino army is starting to panic. 93 points."

"....Bullying Yoshiharu is unforgivable. Won, Won^[21]!"

The full force of Nobuna, Owari's full army crossed the river in unison and entered Sunomata with style.

Unexpectedly, the Oda army seems unstoppable.

What can the Mino army do but tremble.

Saitou Yoshitatsu, while commanding the Mino army, was stunned by the scenery in front of him. He was mumbling to himself "How can this be? Supporting Sunomata with her whole army? Isn't she going to attack Inabayama castle!?"

The cunning Yoshitatsu had left quite a number of troops in Inabayama castle. Though Nobuna is skilled in upfront battles, she is weak in besieging castles because her troops are obviously small in numbers. So even if he separated troops to attack Sunomata and guard Inabayama castle, he was confident of defeating both sides. That's what Yoshitatsu had planned.

But if this goes on, he himself as the general might just fall in Sunomata.

If that's the case, the troops at Inabayama castle can only surrender.

"Is...Is...Is...Is this...this the so called, being done in by himself?"

In such a situation, one can only abandon the battle and retreat.

"Give Sunomata up, and guard Inabayama castle!"

Saitou Yoshitatsu hurriedly retreated.

Building a castle in one night is just too crazy. It's just pure nonsense. Did Oda use magic? Or could it be an idea by his godfather, Dousan?

Yoshitatsu gashed his teeth in anger.

"The intelligence of Viper and that foolish princess, don't tell me they can really win against me.....!?"

Towards his godfather who had always belittled him due to his height and size, Yoshitatsu has always wanted to prove that he is a much better successor than Oda's foolish princess.

For the Mino people who had always been unable to accept outsiders, Dousan used Yoshitatsu who is the proper descendant of the Toki clan, making him easier to be accepted by the people. After taking over, Yoshitatsu has scrapped away all of the reformation of Dousan, and the people had more or less accepted him.

As for commanding troops, he should have learned Dousan's strategies.

But even with all these, he can't win against that foolish princess?

Is Dousan's evaluation spot on?

If that's really the case, then why is he being nurtured to be the successor of the Saitou clan?

A nightmarish reality strikes Yoshitatsu hard.

"Sagara Yoshiharu's Sunomata Ichiya castle" became a legend.

The whole fortress was alive with cheers due to this victory.

With blood splattered all around, Yoshiharu carrying Goemon kneeled and paid his respects to Nobuna.

Hanbei let out a big sigh of relief due to the sudden victory and shouted "No...No...No...Nobuna-sama is so scary... I don't wanna see her... Ahhh...." and hid in the watch tower.

Looks like that weak character won't be cured easily. When she is commanding the troops and leading Inaba Itetsu and Ujiie Bokuzen to Yoshiharu's side, Hanbei had tried her best.

But, Yoshiharu looked onto Nobuna with dead eyes.

"Why are you here Nobuna? Didn't I tell you to attack Inabayama castle!? You really want to marry that sissy, huh!?"

"Hmph! Though I do want to abandon you, I suddenly changed my mind. You have good luck, Saru."

"But....."

"I... am the same greedy person like you. No matter if it's Sunomata or Inabayama castle, I want both of them. I am just such a person who has a 'no giving up' policy."

"Ma, Yoshitatsu must have left quite a number of troops in the castle... The Mino army was much smaller then expected.

Yoshiharu's life was saved.

But, Goemon which is on Yoshiharu's back is.....

".....Anyway, Sunomata castle, I have build it according to our promise."

"I see(dearuka). That ninja, it seems like it has been too hard on her. I'm very sorry too."

"Ahh. War, as expected, does kill. What a horrible thing it is....."

".....I guarantee. I will pacify this messed up world. And change it to a country that will never have wars again."

"The number 1 Nobuna promising something like this to me, if only it does not rain."

"Saru....this isn't your fault. It's all my responsibility for giving the order. Cheer up."

"Ahh. I know. But even though I know, the tears in my eyes... I just can't stop it."

"You snotty brat, is that still considered a warrior?"

At the corner of the unforgiving Nobuna's eyes, there was a slight glimmer too.

But, at that moment.

Goemon who was carried by Yoshiharu, opened her eyes and stretched her back like a cat.

".....Uhhnya....Sagara-shi, hurry and surround Inabayama castle now. Now iys(is) the exact opportunity to strike!"

"Eh, Goemon!? Didn't you die from the bullet.....!?"

"Ninjas often wear armor beneath their clothing. I can still bear a bullet or two~nya."

"Hahaha, you worried me to death!!! I thought....!"

"Hehe. For Sagara-shi who has many desires, I should let you experience the feeling of losing something once~nya. Consider this your practice."

"How dare you feign death!? But I'm glad about this too! Come and let me hug you!!! *Snuggle*Snuggle*"

"Wa..Wa..Wa..Le...Le...Le..Let me go, if I was indecently hugged by a guy, I...I... Uhhnya~~!"

"I don't understand anything you're saying, but it's such a good thing that you've survived!"

"Uhhhnya~~! Sagara-shi is very weird~nya! Help~nya!!!"

"What are you intending to do by hugging the leader and snuggling up to her?!" Maeda and his team of macho men were beating Yoshiharu up in a fit of happiness and rage.

"Ou...Ou...Ouchh! Oi Nobuna, stop smirking there and give me my reward now!"

Nobuna took an orange out from her sleeve and aimed it at Yoshiharu's head.

"Take it. For a monkey like you, an orange as a reward is enough."

"Damn!!!! What kind of reward is this! You just like to play with me like a monkey! Where did the promise of the reward go to!?"

"Don't forget yourself. The reward, wait till you conquer Inabayama!"

"Isn't this because of you running here, where do we find the time now!?"

"Hmph! You stupid Saru. I can't bear with you anymore!"

Nobuna closed her eyes while seemingly looking very happy, she revealed her crystal white teeth.

A rarely seen smile, was once again seen on the face.

"Go Saru! If you don't want me to get snatched away by Nagamasa, conquer Inabayama castle by nightfall."

"Oi! Will you die for increasing my wage just a bit!? You miser! I'll remember this!!!"

Like a streak of lightning...

Nobuna leads the army towards Inabayama castle while Yoshiharu followed closely behind.

Katsuie who had just finished preparing for the customary celebration party, grabs her spear in a panic and shouted, "Damn, I totally forgot about the matter of marriage with Nagamasa! Ev...Ev...Ev...Everyone, follow Hime-sama now!!! The celebration can be delayed until we conquered Inabayama castle!!!"

Hanbei who poked her head out from the watch tower, gave out a sigh of relief after seeing that Nobuna is gone.

".....Yoshiharu-san is really a busy man, huh."

Goemon who was handling the pony while waiting for Hanbei gave a smile behind her mask.

"But he's still a big pervert. It's gonna be tough to be under this sort of guy, Takenaka-shi."

"Such a person is exactly what's worth for me to follow", Hanbei laughed out too.

It isn't long before the marriage between Nagamasa and Nobuna.

"This is the final battle between Mino and us! We must definitely conquer Inabayama castle by today!"

Because Takenaka Hanbei and the Mino Three has defected to Oda, Saitou Yoshitatsu had to increase his defenses and guard Inabayama castle. But due to Oda's general, Shibata Katsuie's "We must recover our reputation today!" weird slogan, the Oda army conquered Mount Kinka's south side, Mount Zuiryūji's fortress in an instant.

The surrounding bases were all taken over by the Oda army one by one, and the Inabayama castle was surrounded totally by Nobuna's army, with all of Mount Kinka lit up by fire torches.

In just half a day, Nobuna had conquered up to 90% of Mino.

What's left is just the isolated Inabayama castle on Mount Kinka.

"But even though there won't be any reinforcements, it's still a fact that Inabayama castle is impenetrable.

While looking at the promised time with Nagamasa getting closer and closer...

Nobuna's small lips formed a (^) shape again, and gather her retainers to discuss.

"We won't make it in time by just relying on brute strength. But if there is someone who can sneak inside Inabayama castle and open the gates from the inside, we might just..... Is there a volunteer?"

"The chance of survival is just 30%. Let me go then."

"Hime-sama will not give this to Nagahide! Just let me go for this mission!"

Niwa Nagahide and Shibata Katsuie both volunteer to be the suicide squad, but with Nobuna's "If both of you died, I will be very troubled, isn't it?", they were rejected.

"Uwaahhh~ Hime-sama will definitely send that damn Saru to be in the suicide squad~ So biased~ There isn't any doubt on it~!"

"Katsuie-dono, just give up on this. 7 points."

On a side note, upon the words suicide squad, Nobukatsu had long be scared stiff while mumbling "A....A bishounen like me, though I'm skilled at cross-dressing, I'm totally useless in terms of mountain climbing", and was stared at by his own sister.

Maeda Inuchiyo let out a "Uhhh" and raised her small hand, but was pressed back down by Yoshiharu silently.

"You have been silent from just now, Saru."

"A last minute military meeting is useless, isn't it? I'm here for this exact moment, right?"

"Hmph. You are only lucky to be alive during Sunomata. The heavens won't be so kind to you twice in a row."

"Ahhh~ It's like this after all~~" Katsuie began to weep again.

"Though I'm not the one who thought of it, there is a way."

"Really? Don't tell me you are imagining things due to the reward"

"Che, you are irritating. Just believe me this time."

".....I got it. Even if I stop you, you'll still go."

"You do understand me."

"Hmph. To do things to such an extent. You sure want to snuggle with the world's no. 1 bishoujo....meaning me... What an ambitious ero-saru."

"Don't...Don't you get the wrong idea. I just want to give a good lesson to that fake Saru from Omi!"

"How rare. I think the same too, will it rain later?"

The sun was setting soon.

It's no longer the time to tell jokes.

Yoshiharu stopped Inuchiyo who was saying "I'll follow you", and left with these few words "I will now sneak into Inabayama castle and open the gates." to Nobuna and left.

"Damn. Even when I know that there is a low chance of survival, I'm not afraid at all. Looks like even the great me had become an accomplished general."

Yoshiharu who was praising himself was hit suddenly at the back of a head. After looking carefully, it's the calabash that was always hanging on Nobuna's waist.

This calabash was used by Nobuna to be her water bottle and never left her side, had her name carved in it too.

"That hurts! What the hell are you doing!?"

".....Hmph! There isn't any water source in Mount Kinka. If you're thirsty, just drink the water from the calabash."

"Remember this, the promise of the reward, you must fulfill it!"

"Yeah. Only if you came back alive."

Nobuna smiled with a hint of arrogance.

Yoshiharu smiled with her.

"Ahhh, that damn Saru and Hime-sama was passing glances at each other? What kind of weird atmosphere is that!? Damn that Saru. If you dare touch that calabash with your lips, you are dead!" The fuming Katsuie shouted out loud while crying.

While moving towards Inabayama castle, Yoshiharu had long asked about the secret tunnel into the fortress from Hanbei.

"There are heavy defenses guarding the southern and western side. But if you climb the cliff from the northern side near the Nagara river, you will be able to get inside. The cliffs are hard to get to, and not even the beasts dare to go near. Are you still willing to go?"

"I had used up all my talismans in Sunomata, now I'm just a useless brat. If Yoshiharu-san still wants to go, you will most likely lose your life. But...."

"But I must still go regardless. You told me about where the secret tunnel is because you knew this, right? Thanks."

Yoshiharu patted Hanbei's head lightly and joined the military meeting.

And then with just himself, Yoshiharu starts on the journey towards the secret tunnel.

To be more discreet, only Goemon herself followed.

In the end, this was a gamble.

"Sorry about this Goemon, having you to accompany me every time."

"Don't be reserved. I too don't want to see the depressed Sagara-shi after seeing Nobuna-dono getting snatched away by Asai Nagamasa."

"I...I...I won't, I don't care about Nobuna! I just can't see eye to eye with that sissy Asai Nagamasa and want to teach him a lesson!"

".....Hehe. Let's go then."

Yoshiharu and Goemon started on the first cliff, relying on each other to check the surrounding situations.

Though the security is light, occasionally there are patrolling soldiers.

But, those patrols are.....

"Waaaaww, Waaawww~"

"Wa, tiger! There are tigers in the mountain!"

"It's a tigress!"

Maeda Inuchiyo acted out a few roars with very little motivation to attract the enemies' attention.

In Inuchiyo's heart, it seems like she was thinking "Uh....Inuchiyo wants to climb the mountain too" and was throwing a tantrum.

It's almost time to the deadline.

"Hasn't Saru given the signal?"

While looking up at Mount Kinka, Nobuna shook her leg in desperation.

Though her heart was anxious about Yoshiharu's safety, her mouth was saying "What a useless Saru."

Katsuie was following close to Nobuna.

"Hime-sama! Look! That's Hime-sama's calabash."

At the peak, there was a flash of light.

This was caused by the calabash that Nobuna had lent to Yoshiharu.

Yoshiharu had tied the calabash on his spear and was swinging it around.

Nobuna stood up from the bench, raised her fist and shouted, "It's our victory, Riku! Now let's start our attack!"

"Uhhh. You damn Saru, shitty Saru! Why is that calabash so shiny? It must be because that damn Saru wanting to slowly savor the taste Hime-sama's precious saliva, he use his dirty tongue and lick all over that calabash! There's no doubt about it! Damn it, I must kill him!!!"

"Riku! I've decided! From today on, that calabash will be the Saru's flag!"

"Ehhhh? Isn't that Hime-sama's treasure!? You...You treasure that damn Saru to that extent, Hime-sama!!!!!!???"

Niwa Nagahide whose childhood name is Manchiyo, had laid out a formation at the foot of Mount Kinka.

Surrounding the different gates of Inabayama castle, she watched Nobuna launch her attack on the fortress.

"The wish of conquering Inabayama castle, just a bit more now. Full points!"

In the front of Nagahide, an unknown army approached suddenly.

The flag on the troops are of the Asai clan's.

The young warrior who is in the front was Nagamasa.

"I, Asai Nagamasa, as Nobuna-dono's husband is here to help attack Mino. Once this is over, we will hold our marriage right here."

Whether he is really here to help can be confirmed just by seeing his people. With the small amount of manpower and different items needed for the wedding, he does not look like the usual Saru-kun with his festive look. It must be while heading to Owari, he must have heard of the fact that Nobuna attacked Mino and had besieged Inabayama castle. "If this goes on, the wedding will be off", and he hurriedly rushed over to Mino.

It's exactly this kind of people that benefits without doing anything.

And for Nagamasa, there is also the secret of him helping Yoshitatsu take back Inabayama castle.

If he doesn't get rid of him, that plot might be revealed to Nobuna.

The usual relaxed Nagamasa is now panicking all over.

"What, Niwa-dono! Please make way now!"

Unknown to himself, he shouted at the woman in front of him.

But Nagahide displayed her trademark smile and stood in front of Nagamasa, giving no intentions to move.

"Asai-dono, Hime had this order given to me, Niwa Nagahide."

"What is it?"

"This battle is Sagara Yoshiharu's. If there are any despicable people who try to interfere, no matter who they are, kill all of them. No exceptions, even if it's Asai Nagamasa."



The gentle and demure Nagahide starts to emit out a strong killing intent. The katana near her waist was held tightly in her hand.

"....If...If you kill me, Asai-clan and Oda clan will be enemies!"

"This too can't be helped. It seems like Hime had decided. For the Oda clan to come so far, it's precisely the result of Sagara-dono's hard work. If his rewards for his own efforts was taken away at the last minute by someone else, Sagara-dono might just regret for life. Hime must had thought that far."

"....Hmmm. So that means that she is intending to break the promise of marriage between us?"

"If Mino can be conquered like this, I think there isn't a need for that."

"You think the Asai-clan will just ignore the things today? Without the alliance with us, how do you guys plan to conquer the world?"

"Hehe. Our clan's princess is very childish, she dotes on that Saru of hers extremely. If anyone dares to harm that Saru-sama, I think she might just go into a rage. Once then, not saying about the Asai-clan, she will not even care about the world too." Nagahide's face still displayed her smile, but the killing intent that was emitted from her body has Nagamasa and his soldiers totally subdued. If they continued on, Nagahide will definitely not hesitate and cut down Nagamasa.

".....How can this be, building a castle on just a day, conquering Inabayama castle.....Unbelievable....."

He had used all the methods, even a despicable one that he could think of. But when he heard that Ando Iga that he had kidnapped was saved by the bandits, Nagamasa had already developed a vague premonition. In the end, he was finally defeated in the hands of Nobuna and Saru.

Asai Nagamasa, acknowledging his own failure, stopped the movements of his troops.

For the matter of kidnapping Ando Iga, he had left instructions in Sunomata. He should be barely able to hide it, and Nobuna should not ask anything more.

But for the hidden relationship between him and Saitou Yoshitatsu, he must think of a way to stop him from talking.

And the marriage between Nobuna and himself hasn't necessarily failed yet. Even if Nobuna conquered Mino, if she broke the marriage pact, she will damage her own reputation.

"You should retreat your forces here, Nagamasa-dono."

".....I got it. But we can't just come for nothing. There must at least be a reply from Nobuna-dono. Our marriage, the alliance between Asai and Oda, will it be a success, we must have the answer today."

"Ok. There are times when one need to be more gracious. The battle is about to finish. Please come to our base with your subordinates then."

"To control Oda clan and conquer the world, I have not given up yet!" Nagamasa whispered, while bearing the humiliation, nods.

This battle, Yoshiharu won the gamble.

It's a great success when Inuchiyo became Torachiyo^[22] and prowl the jungles. The patrols had all shouted "The tiger had came down" and fled away. Walking the deserted path, Yoshiharu climbed the peak without a single injury while cursing "That damn Nagamasa, marry? Dream on!", and successfully snuck in by dusk.

Goemon, who was walking in the front, threw a smoke grenade to block the guard's view. In the confusion, Yoshiharu opened the castle gate, and through the smoke, he ran to one of the peaks known as "Tengu rock" and swung the calabash attached spear.

After that, everything seemed to happen in a flash.

"Damn, damn, damn that Saru, shitty Saru, lousy Saru~" The weeping Shibata Katsuie swung the spear in her hand, and with her troops, they charged to the open gates like a flood.

Yoshitatsu who was at the the middle of the fortress, was shocked at the numerous Oda flags at the front of the gate and with a sigh of "All is over", he finally decided to surrender.

Right here, Nobuna had finally fulfilled her father's, Nobuhide's dying wish, and had became the new master of Mino.

The first thing as the new master of Mino, Nobuna sent a letter to Saitou Dousan who had retired in Owari to come to Mino immediately. And due to Mino Three, the confusion of the towns had been controlled to the bare

minimum. Mino had been under the leadership of Viper, Dousan for quite a long time, and the towns was directly governed by Viper himself. With the support of the Mino Three and Viper, Mino who had obtained Nobuna as a new master returned to normal within a week. No, after Nobuna restored the policies that Yoshitatsu had abolished, the towns will be doing even better than before.

Besides, in contrast of the rumors that the foolish princess is a tyrant, the Oda army had been well disciplined. "Those who are rowdy to the villagers will be executed publicly." Such a law was passed down, making the Owari soldiers wary and making them not touching the villagers.

"Though there are rumors that she is a scary master, unexpectedly, she's a wise ruler."

"When Nobuna-sama rode past just now, there was a very nice odor."

The town's residents had all welcomed Nobuna.

With a new master, Inabayama castle and the towns were slowly enveloped by nightfall.

Notes

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

Note from Translator: This is a rough translation from the chinese raws we have. It is still under work and there will be lots of edits in the near future as i care more about bringing to readers the story rather than the correct use of vocab and grammar. If any readers have inputs and want to edit, please do so.

~Tarmade~

Chapter 5 : Gifu

"Eh. Aren't you 'Zenki'? Where did Hanbei-chan go?"

"It seems like Master isn't used to be around rough warriors, so she had me disguise as Takenaka Hanbei."

Just that night when Mino belongs to Nobuna.

Yoshiharu had finally brought Hanbei to Inabayama Castle with much difficulty, but in the end, what appears is the fox demon, Zenki.

It's not long till the reward ceremony, Yoshiharu and Inuchiyo can only bring this fake Hanbei in and reported to Nobuna who was sitting high up while turning her globe.

"Takenaka Hanbei Shigetora is now here."

".....He...is Hanbei."

"Dearuka"

Under the intense glare of the Oda retainers, Zenki still remains a calm smile, and uses the smooth voice of his and said, "I am Takenaka Hanbei Shigetora. In the battle of Inabayama Castle, the tactics are truly magnificent, so I am here to express my congratulations."

"Ahh, I see. So, what do you want in exchange for your services?"

Nobuna's face is filled with displeasure.

While Zenki maintains his poker face and said lightly, "I did give quite a bit of trouble to Sagara-dono. Though it's not that I do not know what Oda Nobuna is capable of, I do not mind helping out Sagara Yoshiharu at all."

"What a rude guy~" The Oda retainers start to whisper among themselves.

"I get it."

Nobuna said while grabbing an arquebus from an aide and without any hesitation, pulled the trigger while aiming at Zenki's forehead.

"Ehhhhh~?!"

The retainers are all stunned. No one had a chance to even react to the quick turn of events, let alone to say "stop it".

"Ah...." Zenki shouted and disappeared with a gust of smoke.

"Woah. Nobuna!? What the hell are you doing!? That's messed up!"

"Saru, the real body of that guy is this piece of paper, right?"

"It's a shikigami."

"You knew of this yet you still brought him here?"

"You, didn't you tell me you do not believe in demons or monsters?"

"Ah, of course I do not believe in them. What we just seen is an illusion. The real Takenaka Hanbei, show yourself quickly! If not, the next bullet will be yours!"

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

Nobuna started shooting at the ceilings, pillars, everywhere around the room.

"Hime-sama, there's a small child hiding here!"

Hanbei, whose teeth emitting "kachak, kachak" sounds out of fear, was held up by Katsuie by her collar like a small cat and brought to the side of Yoshiharu.

"Ahh, ahhh, woahh...I...I'm gonna be bullied... Do...Do...Don't bully me....."

"What's going on, Hanbei-chan!? Where did the gallant strategist on the battlefield go to!?"

Hanbei rushed to the back of Yoshiharu.

Yoshiharu said "It's ok, It's ok", while lightly patting Hanbei's back.

If she did not use her Shikigami to test the other party, Hanbei will most likely not appear.

But the Nobuna who is in front of them had just seen through Zenki's disguise in one look, and even shot at the Shikigami without any hesitation.

"Yo-yo-yo-yo-yoshiharu-san. Sa-sa-sa-sa-save me.... Th-th-th-th-think of something. *Tremble*"

As the saying goes, weak girls are cute. "I will protect this child." Yoshiharu couldn't help but think that.

"I got it, I got it. Oi, Nobuna, don't swing your musket around in front of other people! The demure Hanbei-chan is crying now, isn't she!?"

"Huh? What 'demure Hanbei-chan?' I thought this brat was a squirrel from Mount Kinka."

"What right do you have to say to others, didn't you act like a monkey and run around towns?"

"What, you damn Saru. You like to show your manliness in front of that wild Mount Kinka animal? Do you want to go against me or something!?"

"Anyway, don't just swing your arqebus around your future retainers! Can you take the responsibility if it misfires?"

"You understand don't you? I hate all these Omyoujis or demons. Hmph, it seems like animals do gather together, looks like you guys mix around well with each other, huh....."

Reluctantly passing back her arqebus to an aide, Nobuna returned to her seat.

"Ok Hanbei, tell me clearly who you wanna serve. Of course, I have no problems accepting you as my direct aide and letting me train you to death!"

"I...I...I'm happy about your offer, No...No...Nobuna-sama is too...too...too scary. I...I...I will be bullied."

"Ah, really? How about going over to Katsuie to swing some swords or thrust some spears?"

"Such a demure brat can never survive in the battlefield! Let me use my hellish training to train you from the start, Heiyaaaaaa!"

Katsuie who leapt out to the courtyard, swung the long spear at a thick tree, and the latter was cut in half in an instant and fell into the lake.

"De...de...de...de...definitely not. Uhhh, Uhhhhhhhh.....*sob*"

"Hehe~hehe~hehe. In terms of intelligence, she should be with me. Let me teach Hanbei-dono all the devious plans and cunning strategies! What strategists need are guts! Heiyaaa!"

The late Saitou Dousan geezer, lifted a giant rock in the courtyard and threw it into the lake.

"Ahhhhhhh....Uhhh...Uhhhhhhh *Sobsob*"

"Ahh, really! Stop scaring Hanbei already! She is crying now!"

While hugging Hanbei's trembling shoulders, Yoshiharu lectured at the overly energetic Dousan and Katsuie.

"In the end, she's an introvert. It's obvious that this kind of brat can never serve under Viper. She did cause a big fuss while serving under Yoshitatsu, right? I think it's better for me to retrain her from the roots."

"Uhhhh. If I can't be together with Yoshiharu-san, I want to retire back into the mountains. Yoshiharu-san, the people in Oda-clan are bullying me.....!"

"Ah...Ah... There's no helping it. So that's how it is. Can you let Hanbei be by my side and help me out?"

".....so infuriating! It's not impossible. From now on, work hard as the advisor of Saru. But....."

"Ahhh? *Tremble profusely*"

".....Don't hang around Saru all the time! If you dare steal from me, I will shoot a bullet right through your eyebrows!"

".....*Tremble, tremble*"

"Oi, Nobuna, put down that arquebus!!!"

With this, Hanbei can finally stay with Yoshiharu, and is officially part of the Oda-clan.

Nobuna and her retainers were also finally seated, and began their real after-battle review.

At the side of Nobuna sits her "fiancee", a face full of uncaring, Asai Nagamasa. But Nobuna too did not care about Nagamasa at all, and goes along with her own after-battle stuff.

First and foremost is the decision on the surrendered Saitou Yoshitatsu.

The huge man of 6 feet and 5 inches, Yoshitatsu had prepared for his death, appeared in front of Nobuna in a full attire of white and sat in seiza position.

But that messed up face of his, after showing a serious face, caused Katsue to laugh out. This caused everyone to whisper to each other.

"Don't laugh, 12 points."

"Riku, this isn't the time to laugh."

"Yes, I'm very sorry!"

"I'm really sorry, Yoshitatsu-sama." Hanbei kept bowing her head and apologizes, but Yoshitatsu said in return, "I got it. It's my fault too for not employing you" and forgave Hanbei's actions.

With a unnervingly sharp glare, Nobuna asked Yoshitatsu, "Saitou Yoshitatsu, what more do you have to say?"

"...I totally lost to you. If you can ensure the safety of my advisors and people, I have nothing else to say."

"Ah, dearuka. You don't plan to ask for forgiveness? If you retire and give up arms, it's not impossible for me to spare your life."

"I'm still a descendant of Toki Clan, I have my own resolve. Right now I should be committing seppuku and die, but....."

"But?"

"That Asai Nagamasa who is sitting at Nobuna-dono's side, in actual fact, he is....."

"Shut up! He is trying to sour our relationship. Hurry and execute him!" Nagamasa roared at Yoshitatsu.

"I'm already prepared to die, so I had no need to lie. Asai Nagamasa, lies and betrayal are a common thing in this era, but the way you are now is too ugly."

"Shut up. Nobuna-dono, execute him now, please cut off his head now."

Nobuna ignored Nagamasa words and asked Saitou Dousan who is sitting in the corner not saying a word.

"Viper, what is your opinion? You are but a retired man. By right you have no right to say anything about my decisions, but Yoshitatsu is your godson. I don't mind listening to you for a while."

Dousan waved the fan in his hand with an agonizing face and squeeze a sentence out.

".....That fellow is a smart man contrary to his looks. If you release him, he will definitely be a obstacle to Nobuna-dono's dream. Kill him."

Yoshitatsu opened his eyes wildly and glared at Dousan.

".....Yoshitatsu. Your intelligence and your pride as one of the descendants of the protectors of Mino, Toki clan, caused you to lose your life. In this era, it's a common thing for the new to replace the old. To go against the flow and fail, it's your own undoing."

"Nobuna-dono is the one who inherit Otou-san's dream. I had realized that early on. But I also had the pride of being one of the successor to Dousan. As one of the two successors who both had no blood relationship, if I could prove my strength and win, it might be possible to prove that I'm a more suitable successor to Otou-san, that's what I think!"

"If I let you be my successor, I might be saved from some of the bad things I've done... There was once I had such a naive thought, but it seems like such a rash action at the start had caused such a situation now. Forgive me, Yoshitatsu."

A short silence ensued when both of them used their expressions to communicate.

".....I've been trouble all this while, Otou-san."

Yoshitatsu bowed his head deeply towards Dousan.

"Kill him. Kill my son now, Nobuna-dono."

Dousan used a voice so soft that it was almost inaudible.

Asai Nagamasa was celebrating in his heart.

"My plan was not exposed, that's good!"

But all the celebration aside, Asai Nagamasa did not feel a bit of happiness.

Because he himself is also one of the sinful sengoku daimyo who had forced his own father to retire.

"Mino's Saitou clan, my Asai clan, Kai's Takeda clan, and Echigo's Uesugi clan. This sengoku era where fathers and sons had to battle nonstop, when will it end.....?"

Unknowingly, Nagamasa said such words lightly from his mouth.

But, Nobuna while still having a face of displeasure, silently shook her head.

"I will not execute Yoshitatsu."

"What? What are you saying, Nobuna-dono? If you don't kill him now, it's like waiting for a disaster to happen. There will be a day he will return....."

"Viper, you've overestimated Yoshitatsu. How can he be the opponent of this great me!?"

"Naïve. Too naïve, Nobuna-dono! If you are pitying me, then please stop it!"

"I am not pitying you. Aides! Drag Yoshitatsu and throw him out now!"

"Really! To conquer the world, sometimes one must be ready to forgo personal feelings! Nobuna-dono, that naïve-ness will one day cause you to lose your life!"

"Shut the hell up, Viper! You are but a retired man. Although I did hear your opinions, the one making the last decision is still me!"

"But.....! Look at Yoshitatsu's eyes. He had no intentions to surrender willingly! If you don't get rid of him now, there will definitely be a day he will stage a counter attack!"

"Enough, throw him out now!"

"Like what Otou-sama said, you will regret it one day" Yoshitatsu mumbled while standing up, and without a word of thanks, walked out of the hall.

Towards such a fact, the angry Dousan said "I'm leaving" and left quietly.

In an instant, an heavy atmosphere envelops the great hall.

But Nobuna seems not to care one bit.

"Really, that's why I say geezers have no patience. Everyone, thanks for waiting! Now let's start the long awaited reward ceremony!"

Nobuna clapped her hands and the first to walk up to her is Niwa Nagahide and Shibata Katsuie.

The one in charge of building Komaki Yamajō and disrupting East Mino daily activities, the accomplished Nagahide was awarded with a mind blowing^[23] "A year's supply of Uiroumochi", and the bravest Katsuie who participated in conquering Inabayama Castle was awarded with a "Tea set" and "The right to open Miso Udon shops in towns"

"Huh, er, Hime-sama. This tea set seems strange. It looks like muddled up mud....."

"Riku, that tea set is actually top quality stuff taken from the Tang dynasty. Just the price of that is more than enough to buy a country like Mino."

"Ehh, it's that expensive?! Thank you so much, Hime-samaaaa! I, Shibata Katsuie, will definitely use this life of mine to serve you forever!"

"Yoshiharu-san, that tea set isn't worth anything....", Hanbei whispered into Yoshiharu's ear.

Katsuie, that fellow is too easy to swindle. Yoshiharu can't do anything about it too.

"And now, Inaba Itetsu and Ujiie Bokuzen."

"Yes!"

"I will keep intact the lands of both of you. But from now on, you must enforce Otoichi-Onza related policies. Lead Mino from here on and help me out in conquering the world."

"We understand, Nobuna-sama!"

"Aiya, we heard Owari's princess is an unforgiving person, but it's a good thing we manage to keep our heads." The two geezers whispered and consoled each other.

"And, that Ando blah blah blah. Come out."

"Damn you, Asai Nagamasa! Nobuna-dono, till yesterday, I was captured and imprisoned by Nagamasa!"

Once Ando Iga was brought forward, he was cursing "Damn it, Damn it" non-stop.

Nagamasa paled and said, "What are you saying?"

"Nagamasa was in cahoots with Saitou Yoshitatsu. He kidnapped me to threaten Hanbei and helped Yoshitatsu gain back Inabayama Castle... Uhhh, why is Nagamasa sitting beside Nobuna-dono!? Don't tell me you are seeing yourself as Nobuna-dono's husband, damn it!"

But Asai Nagamasa isn't a simple person too.

"Ando Iga is already so angry, so I must never let the incident of Sunomata be exposed...." Nagamasa used his brain and started explaining.

"Ever since I've hidden the head of the Mino Three, Ando Iga, the residents of Mino started to spread rumors like 'Saitou Yoshitatsu had started to finish off the interfering Mino Three.' From the results, this had also contributed to the other two, Inaba Itetsu and Ujiie Bokuzen, to finally defect to Nobuna-dono."

"Although full of lies, this reason is good. 73 points." Nagahide is still paying attention.

"You damn sissy, full of lies yet having such a convincing reason." Yoshiharu started to scratch the tatami like a cat while gashing his teeth.

"Oh, so it's like that..... Inaba and Ujiie defecting isn't the efforts of that damn Saru." Katsuie chipped in unknowingly.

"So it's like that. Oi, you that Ando blah blah blah, from now on, as the head of the Mino Three, work hard for me, along with your niece Hanbei."

Nobuna does not seem interested and did not ask anything about Nagamasa.

"Oioi, don't tell me you are just going to ignore that Nagamasa bastard?" Yoshiharu glared with all his might.

"Ohh, Hanbei. It's been hard on you letting you serve under Saitou clan. I've let you down.....!"

"It's ok. Because of Uncle, Hanbei has finally met her own master."

"Is that so, is that so? Hanbei has become strong, huh?"

With this, the efficient Mino Three had finally assembled and become Nobuna's direct retainers.

The Uncle and niece pair hugged each other tightly, while feeling a sense of joy for each other at this new beginning.

With all this, the leftover things from conquering Mino is almost complete.

Yoshitatsu's treatment and the rewards of the retainers are complete, what's left is just the marriage with Asai Nagamasa and the promise of the reward.

This is it.

"The one who conquered Inabayama Castle, no matter what kind of reward, it will be fulfilled."

Hanbei said aloud the promise with a hint of bitterness, and it's time for Nobuna to fulfill it.

"From my just and fair judgement, the one who has the right to claim the promise is Katsuie who has accomplished the most!"

"That's right, Hime-sama! I had accomplished the most! Yay~~!!"

"Hime, this is too unreasonable, 12 points. The building of Sunomata castle, the defect of Mino Three and Hanbei, and the suicide squad to sneak into Inabayama Castle, the right to the promise should be given to Sagara Yoshiharu-sama. This can then be a just and fair reward giving."

With a wide smile, Nagahide seems to understand what Nobuna is thinking and raised such a full mark suggestion.

"Che, there's no helping it, huh?" Nobuna knitted her eyebrows, spitted on the floor and turned to Yoshiharu.

"It...It can't be, Hime-samaaaaaaaa~!?"

Ignoring Katsuie who is sobbing on the ground, Nobuna shifted to Yoshiharu's side and neared her face to the point where they can feel each other's breath.

Yoshiharu is so nervous that he couldn't move.

It's been so long that I can observe such a delicate small face of Nobuna. Such a bright scene in front of him forces Yoshiharu to swallow his saliva.

"Say it out loud, Saru. What do you want. Do...Don't stutter now...."

"....Do...Don't position your face so close. It's hard to say, isn't it?"

"Stop caring so much, just say it when I want you to say it!"

Both of them looked at each other in silence due to being nervous.

Though from the view of bystanders, it was an instant, but to the both of them, it was an unbearable long moment.

Nobuna's face started to show a tinge of red, and her expression was that of almost crying while she looked at Yoshiharu.

"You damn Saru! If you don't say it now, I will be snatched away by Nagamasa! Hurry up, say that you want me as your reward. Hurry up and say it!"

Sounds emitting out slight bouts of tsundere-ism from Nobuna can be heard, but such a sound makes Yoshiharu even more confused as he sinks into a deep helplessness.

"He...Hehehe. My reward is you, marry me! If I say such a thing, Nobuna will definitely not know what to do and be confused. Th...Though I had no interest in marrying that stingy, violent brat of a princess, ...isn't... isn't it fine to say such a mind-blowing request to teach Nobuna a lesson....?"

At this moment.

At the back of the sweating Nobuna, Yoshiharu saw Asai Nagamasa and Niwa Nagahide.

Asai Nagamasa had a sneering expression, "Just a lowly soldier, what a joke to have ulterior motives on the Oda clan's princess."

He was sneering at the panicking Yoshiharu.

"Shut up and wait. I will tear that sneer right off of your face." Nagamasa's reaction egged Yoshiharu on, letting him be more and more determined on that mind-blowing request.

But.

On the other side, Niwa Nagahide smiled gently and looked at Yoshiharu.

"Yoshiharu-sama. Please decide using your own eyes and see what's best for Hime."

Using an expression almost like advising, Nagahide said wordlessly to Yoshiharu.

"Protect Hime well from the hands of Nagamasa, as well as her dreams. Please choose such a reward."

Such a reward, can it be done.....?

What's there to care about, what I really wish for is.....!

And then, he himself noticed it. At his back, Hanbei has been looking at him from the back silently all this while.

Yes. I had such a promise with Hanbei-chan. I had already said such big words in front of her. How can I force Nobuna into a corner and request her to marry a lowly soldier. With how he is now, he has no such right at all. There is still such a long, almost impossible distance between being such an outstanding general that he is to be on equal standing as the Oda-clan's princess.

No matter if it's the world or Nobuna, for Yoshiharu now, they are like the sun in the sky, such a far yet dazzlingly bright existence.

Unknowingly, she starts to feel anxious.

"Nee, Saru. Hurry up and say it."

Nobuna's light breath which comes together with a nice smell from her body floated pass Yoshiharu nostrils.

This arrogant violent girl is totally not my type.

Even if that should be the case...

His heart is filled with a sudden desire to steal Nobuna's lips.

"I don't care at all if this damn brat is the world's number 1 bishoujo. I do know, this girl, is my....."

Suppressing such a desire in his heart, Yoshiharu said.

".....Nobuna, I don't want you to marry Asai Nagamasa! That fellow does not have one bit of real feelings for you!"

"Er, Saru?! What....What...What are you saying!? Here you should be saying....."

"You will fulfill any reward requested, don't tell me you are going to regret it! Listen, what I want for my reward is you rejecting this marriage of yours! Just desserts!"

"I...I...I don't....Er....Er... It's not like that.....!"

"That's a good one, Saru~! Beautiful~! I raise both hands in approval!"

Hime-sama's chastity is finally saved, Katsuie can't help but dance wildly in joy.

"....Considering both of your feelings, this ending is quite regrettable, but the Oda clan has avoided a crisis, 80 points."

Nagahide has long noticed Nobuna and Yoshiharu's hopeless love for each other, her usual smile revealed a complicated expression.

Asai Nagamasa who was ridiculed in front of everyone walked towards Yoshiharu and Nobuna with a pale face.

"What is this about, Nobuna-dono?"

"Nagamasa. Towards the one who conquered Inabayama Castle, I promised to fulfill any reward he wants. Looks like this Saru of mine is so jealous of my happiness that he chose to destroy our marriage as the reward. Hehe."

"Hime, your happiness is obviously on your face. At this time, you should be more reserved. 32 points."

"Nagamasa, this bad luck of yours is well deserved~ Damn Saru, nicely done! You are really a good retainer who thinks of Nobuna-sama. I now see you in a different light!" Katsuie happily hugged Yoshiharu while twisting his joints.

"So that's how things are now, go back to Omi if there's nothing else, Nagamasa. I'm sorry for letting you run so far."

"What the hell does this mean!? Nobuna-dono, don't tell me you agree to such a dumb reward!?"

"Of course. This is a long decided fact, and the achievements that Saru made are all well known. So Nagamasa, please forget about marriage. If you want to hate, hate this Saru of mine♪♪♪"

Nagamasa thought.

I've lost. I have once again lost totally to this couple. From the start when I came to Owari and proposed to Nobuna, my fate had been decided.

For the dream of conquering the world, Saruyashamaru had even abandoned his own dream.

Yet I've lost to this Saru who refused to give up like a child who is throwing a tantrum, and this Nobuna who is most likely having the same feelings as this Saru.

But Nagamasa's heart relaxed a little.

But.....This is just Asai Nagamasa, No, just Saruyashamaru's feelings.

As a sengoku daimyo, Asai Nagamasa will not back off from just this setback.

But he can only swallow and accept what has happened here.

"If that's the case, the alliance between Asai clan and Oda clan is non-existent! If so, my ambition of conquering the world from Omi will be shattered!"

"If you so wish to have an alliance with me, how about you start to beg me with a better tone?"

"No. If I can't have an alliance formed through blood relations, I can't answer to my father! And, you do not have any other siblings! Other than the princess of Oda clan, there is no other way.

Towards Nagamasa's desperate explaining, Nobuna said with a stiff expression.

"Ah is that it? Though it's no big deal to destroy Omi while on route to the capital, but since you've said it to this extent, it's not hard for me to form an alliance with you. As the proof of the alliance, I will send a princess of the Oda clan to your side. This will be it."

"Uhh....Princess? I...I had no objections....."

"So the alliance is formed then. I will send her over soon, so go back if there's nothing else. And I won't ask anymore about you being in cahoots with Yoshitatsu and kidnapping that Ando Blah blah blah."

Nagamasa nodded obediently. If he had a princess from the Oda clan, it's as if he had a hostage in his hands. With the way the alliance is formed, his father, Asai Hisamasa, should be able to accept it.

"I understand. I wish this time around you will not break your promise with me.....I will convince my father on my side."

"You brought up your father again. Aren't you overly concerned over forcefully making your father retire?"

"As a child, that is obvious."

"Ah, is that so? Placing the same amount of importance to your own father and the world, looks like you are still a child. And such a thing like deceiving females should be stopped.... If you truly want to marry with someone from our Oda clan.

".....Understood."

Asai Nagamasa, even as a sengoku daimyo, has been utterly defeated in front of Nobuna.

"Wanting me to marry you is a bit too reckless. From now on, work hard for my Oda clan as my little brother.

From Nagamasa's point of view, the meaning from Nobuna's words was so hurtful, it carved a deep scar in his heart.

How Asai Nagamasa can reach where he is now contains the shattered remains of his own dream as Saruyashamaru. But the price for abandoning his own dream.....

I might have lost a bit too much. But now isn't the time, I must not bow down to Nobuna. Now I should accept this humiliation and retreat. There will be a day when he will return and subdue Nobuna..... The flames of ambition silently burns inside Nagamasa's chest.

His own abandoned wishes, his lost dreams, the feelings he was unable to get across. Without knowing when, their shape had changed in his heart and has become a fiercely burning ambition.

After Nagamasa left, the hall exploded with a wave of cheers.

"My princess is finally safe~! Damn Saru, yay~!!"

"Ge...Get away from me, your tits are suffocating me, ok!?"

".....worth celebrating."

"....I...I seem to be a bit tired....Everyone is being so loud, so scary.....*Sob**"

"A wise decision, Hime. But....."

"Manchiyo. What do you want to say?"

"Inside the Oda family, other than Nobuna-hime, there isn't any other princess left. 1 point."

"Ara, I've been exposed."

"Ahhhhh, that's right!", Katsuie screamed too.

"Wh-wh-wh-wh-what should we do, Hime-sama? As expected, we should just finish Asai clan off?"

"Of course not. Though I display such an attitude in front of Nagamasa, but honestly, Asai clan's Odani Castle is a fortress not losing to Inabayama Castle. Conquering it will waste huge amounts of time and energy. If that's the case, going to the capital will be delayed and we might let Takeda Shingen take the lead.

"Takeda Shingen and Echigo's Uesugi Kenshin is battling it out on Kawanaka island. If we miss this golden opportunity to go to the capital, our dream of conquering the world won't be fulfilled," Nobuna stretched her arms and said solemnly.

"Manchiyo, what should we do when there is a situation like this?"

"At such a moment, we should choose a girl with fair looks and accept her as a goddaughter of the Oda clan, and as per customary procedures, marry her to Asai clan.

"That will take too much time. And it's a well known fact that the Oda clan is full of hunks and beauties.... Nagamasa had already seen my face. If I just find any half-assed bishoujo, this will definitely be exposed."

"You have a point."

"Owari is a birthplace of fair ladies. Though the amount of bishoujos aren't little, but a bishoujo that can match up to my invincible looks, I don't think I can find any....."

Inuchiyo has earnestly raised her small hand to attract Nobuna's attention, but it seems like Nobuna ignored it.

It's a fact that Inuchiyo can be considered a bishoujo, but her looks are totally different from Nobuna, especially the breasts which is totally a goner.

"Le-le-le-le-le.....Let me go over to Omi then!? If...If...If it's for the sake of Hime-sama, I Katsuie, will not hesitate to even die. Eve...Even if it's to sacrifice my body to a ma...ma...man, I will also.... Uhhh, Uhhhhh.....!"

"Riku, I already said that I will be very troubled without you in the army, right? Besides, since when does a princess from the Oda clan have such huge breasts like yours!?"

"Eh.....? Hu...Huge breasts.....!?"

"My downwards and slanted eyes are totally different to Hime-sama too. 0 points," Nagahide has brilliantly been passed too.

"What a headache. Though I do really want to dress Hanbei up as a princess and had it done over with, it's a pity that the brat is too timid. Goemon always hides her face and stutters too, and the only leftover is Nene who is still young....."

"Hmmm. Though it's hard to say.....but isn't there Oichi still?"

Yoshiharu turned his head to the side and said hesitantly.

In Yoshiharu's sengoku game knowledge, the alliance between the two clans were formed after Nagamasa married the princess of Oda clan, Oichi.

But after their alliance broke, Oichi went through a very pitiful life by witnessing her husband, Asai Nagamasa, commit seppuku and die,

Since everyone had all along not said anything about Oichi, Yoshiharu felt embarrassed to ask, his heart filling with unease too.

"Hu....Huh? Who is Oichi? I've never heard of her before."

"Isn't she your little sister?"

"My...My little sister? Manchiyo, what is this about?"

"This...I have no idea too."

"Ye...Yes Yes. Hi...Hime-sama has no sister at all!"

Not knowing why, Katsuie is starting to sweat profusely.

"Saru, I had no other siblings other than a brother.... There, that guy who dressed himself like an Oiran^[24], the real Owari's fool, Kanjuurou."

Nobuna points to the garden with a face of helplessness. There was that idiot, Oda Kanjuurou Nobukatsu, who is leading his team of girls and shouting "Let's celebrate" while dancing an oiran dance.

"Onee-sama, congratulations! I, Kanjuurou, will stay by your side and serve you for the whole day! Ara, why am I dressed so pretty!? Hahahaha!"

Nobuna quietly gathered her retainers by her side while revealing a dark sinister smile.

".....Saru, Manchiyo, Inuchiyo, Riku....What do you guys think?"

".....Oioi, Nobuna. Don't tell me you.... *Swallow*"

".....Although it's a exhilarating suggestion, but if it is exposed, Nagamasa-sama will be fuming mad. It's a high risk gamble. 50 points."

".....A man yet being prettier than Inuchiyo. I can't take it..... Agreed!"

"What? Huh, what are you guys talking about? Am I the only...only one not understanding anything!? Uwahhhhh....!?"

"Please marry Kanjuurou-sama to Asai clan," Hanbei who was hiding behind a pillar suggest with a sobbing voice.

"The both... both of them... will... will... will definitely fit...fit...fit together..."

"What the hell is going on!?" Yoshiharu scratched his head angrily, but Nobuna had already decided what to do.

"Even Hanbei had suggested it, so it's an all green! Everyone! Hurry up and capture Kanjuurou!"

"Arara, Onee-sama, what kind of a game is this? Hahahaha. Eh? Why am I being tied up with a rope.....?"

Goemon who appeared in a gust of smoke had tied Nobukatsu up tightly like a chicken.

"Oichi-sama, please prepare yourself."

"Ararara, Ninja, who is this Oichi-sama you are talking about?"

"You."

"Eh? But my name is Kanjuurou Nobukatsu....."

"From today forth, you are Asai Nagamasa's wife, Oichi-hime~nya!"

"E~H~!?"

The pitiful Nobukatsu is sent like this in a cage and carried towards Omi by people.

After beautifully settling the alliance issue with Asai clan, Nobuna's lengthy after-battle review ended. "Now to give the Mino people a fresh start, we should change the name of the castle and town. Are there any nice suggestions?" Nobuna ask the knowledgeable Nagahide.

"In the Tang dynasty, there was an ancient saying of 'King of Zhou, marching from Mount Qi, the world can be obtained'. It means that the ancient King of Zhou assembles his army in Mount Qi and finally obtained the world. Now to show that we have the wish to bring peace throughout the world, how about we change Inabayama Castle to 'Gizan Castle' and Mount Kinka to Mount Qi?"

"That's a good name, Manchiyo! But the town name being changed to Mount Qi is abit weird. Since that town is actually plains."

"Mount of Qi has other names like Giyou or Gifu."

"Then let's name it Gifu! From now on, this castle will be 'Gifu's castle'! And the town will be 'Gifu's town'!"

"How about Mount Kinka?"

"It sounded great to start with, so it will remain the same."

After deciding on the new name of the town, Nobuna ordered her men to write out the official documents for the new name "Gifu" and stamp a new personal seal of approval onto them.

This seal carved the words....

Tenka Fubu.

The scattered world, using military might, to gather all of them into one.

After granting the wish of capturing Mino, Nobuna can finally announce her ambition to conquer the world.

"Finally, we can prepare to go to the capital! We should head to Kyoto, letting the whole world fall under our command!"

"Arara, with this we will make enemies everywhere again." Nagahide gave out a sigh after hearing.

"Someone explain to me what does the words in this seal means?" Katsue became confused.

"Finally, the moment has finally arrived....! It's almost time for us to fetch for the vagrant general, Ashikage Yoshiaki and move onto the world." Yoshiharu's heart starts burning with anticipation.

But this conquest might sound easy, but in actual fact, no one can predict the situation.

"I'm born from Mino's sub tribe of Toki-Minamoto, Juubei Mitsuhide. Ever since Dousan-sama has been banished from Mino, I have become a vagrant. But now, please allow me to contribute to help restore the Ashikage government."

The young warrior who had walked in is Akechi Mitsuhide.

Her long black hair was tied up tidily at the back, her expression revealing an intense sharp glare. She is a bishoujo warrior that gives people a refreshing first impression.

No matter if it's her actions or behavior, there isn't any extra movements mixed in. This shows that she is extremely well trained. Not to mention her swordplay, she even knows, to a great degree, the ancient tea ceremony skills that is necessary in Kyoto.

Looking at this bishoujo warrior who is emitting a clean and distinguished aura, everyone can't help but let out "Ohoh" voices of approval.

Unlike the Owari warriors whose head are full of Hatcho Miso, this girl in front of them is a rare talent.

In this serious and solemn discussion, there is no inkling of a feeling that she will be the culprit of the future "Honnou-ji Incident".

Nobuna mumbled, "I seem to have seen you somewhere," and tilted her small head.

"Ara? Aren't you the aide who was sitting beside Viper in Masanori Temple?"

"Yes, I was once the aide of Dousan-sama."

"Ahh, as expected. If it's Viper, he is retiring at my side. You are now a vagrant, so letting you join our Oda clan is no problem! Now that we had just obtained Mino, we are at a shortage of manpower."

"Yes.....But, I'm not here for a position today, but to inform you of very important news. This news might be a major point in the future of the Oda clan.

"Stop dilly dallying. Say it out now."

Yoshiharu seems to have thought of something and interrupted.

This, this is a major event during the event of Oda clan heading towards the capital.

"In Kyoto, Matsunaga Hisahide, in cahoots with the Miyoshi Three, assassinated Ashikage Yoshiteru! Akechi Mitsuide arranged for Yoshiteru's little brother, Ashikage Yoshiaki, to be the new shogun, wanting to restore the reputation of the government! But she does not have the military might to defeat Kyoto's Matsunaga and Miyoshi Three, so she had come to the Oda clan and ask for them to head to the capital.... That's it, right!?"

In Yoshiharu's gaming knowledge, Matsunaga Hisahide can be said to be a big villain in the sengoku era. Assassinating his master, killing the shogun, even Nara's great Buddha came under his path of destruction. But, in this world, what evil things will Matsunaga Hisahide do? Yoshiharu does not know."If even Matsunaga Hisahide is a female, that will be an unacceptable fact," Yoshiharu can't help but think.

"Oh, so that's it. As expected of Saru, far-sighted, huh?" Nobuna praised.

But the kneeling Juubei said to Nobuna.

"Er....Though it's a bit rude, but things aren't exactly like that."

"Ehhhh? How can this be wrong!? In my brain, the sengoku game knowledge....."

"What? In the end, it's all wrong. Damn Saru, that "blah blah blah" knowledge of yours does have times when they are wrong."

"It should not be possible....."

"Though what actually happens are not far from what he said. From what spies told me, it's a fact that Matsunaga Hisahide and Miyoshi Three attempted to assassinate the shogun, Ashikage Yoshiteru. But the wise Yoshiteru-sama knew that he had no chance of winning, left a note of "Awaiting for another day", and escaped to the country of Ming^[25] with his sister, Yoshiaki."

Ehhhhhhh!?

Yoshiharu is totally confused.

"The current shogun bring the next shogun Yoshiaki overseas!? I haven't heard of this kind of thing at all! With this, the righteous motive of Oda clan moving to the capital will..... No, with this, I do not know where the line of history will flow next, and my value will....."

"Be quiet a bit, will you, Saru? Juubei, continue on."

"Roger. With this, the line of Ashikage as shogun will be broken. Ashikage's sub family that was in Kantou is totally eliminated due to Houjo clan, and no one else can continue as the shogun. If this goes on, the chaos in Japan might continue on forever."

"Juubei, you must have some kind of a plan for you to run all the way here to me."

"Exactly. But there might be risks involved."

Mitsuhide moves closer and whispers to Nobuna.

In an instant, Nobuna revealed a very confused expression, but had come to a decision immediately.

"I get it. I will use this plan, Juubei! Inuchiyo, hurry and get that black teeth^[26] princess who only knows how to play soccer!"

".....Roger."

With this, "Oh, hohoho. Finally, it's time for me to enter!" with such high laughter, Imagawa Yoshimoto appears in front of them.

Though Yoshimoto had said "White teeth is still more beautiful" and didn't dye her teeth black, that princess stance of hers is still the same. Ever since surrendered to Oda clan, Yoshimoto had been living a stress-free life. She did not even retire, and was wearing that Juunihitoe of hers and wandered around. Everyday, she was either drinking tea, playing soccer, or writing Enka songs, and had totally lived a carefree life.



"Our Imagawa clan is also a sub-clan of the Ashikage. 'If the main clan is destroyed, Nara will inherit them, if Nara is destroyed, Imagawa will inherit'. Now that Ashikage's bloodline had been severed, and the one who was supposed to inherit them, the Nara clan has been destroyed by the great me, the only one left is Imagawa Clan! Here, we should just have me....'Hokkaido's strongest bow', Imagawa Yoshimoto! Other than me, Imagawa Yoshimoto, going onwards to Kyoto to inherit the position of Shogun, there is no other choice! Hohohohoho!"

Exactly.

Towards Juubei Mitsuhide who observed the rules, she wants to tell Nobuna the fact that "Since now Ashikage main clan's bloodline is severed, the princess of Imagawa clan has the right for the Shogun".

Though Nobuna has totally no interest in such messy things, it looks like "If we let this fellow be the Shogun, we will have the righteous motive to proceed to the capital", and reluctantly agreed.

"Though she is an irritating fellow, if I make Imagawa Yoshimoto a Shogun and eradicate Matsunaga and the Miyoshi Three, I don't think Takeda Shingen and Uesugi Kenshin has a way to interrupt."

"Yes. Though this princess's behavior is a bit foolish, just from the bloodline, there's no problem. There isn't any harm to our side too."

"Ohhohoho. Once I become the new Shogun, Nobuna, no matter if it's Kanrei^[27], or vice-Shogun, just choose what rank you like. The great me is a very generous lady. Ohohohoho."

"You are very noisy, you know? Oi Yoshimoto, hurry and stamp your seal on this 'contract'. After this, I will let you be the Shogun."

Yoshimoto asked "what is this?" while taking the document that Nobuna was throwing.

What was written on it were...

Number 1: Your rank as the Shogun is nothing but a puppet. All official documents going out must have Nobuna-sama's stamp too.

Number 2: The people will be directly ruled by Nobuna-sama. All opposition will be executed without exceptions. If you dare to oppose me, you too shall be executed.

Number 3: You must help the busy Nobuna-sama serve Himeko^[28] that is in Kyoto.

Number 4: Don't use that high tone of yours to laugh foolishly. So noisy.

Number 5: From now on, you must have an open a caring heart towards Nobuna-sama like how you treat your own mother or sister. Respect her every day and do not face your legs in her direction when you sleep.

In Nobuna's handwriting, states this 5 totally arrogant rules.

"What the hell is this!? Towards the future Shogun-sama like me, how rude....."

"I said you are just a puppet. Isn't that obvious? Someone who is below me saying things about my decisions should be dragged out and be executed in public. Besides, why haven't you retired!?"

"Ahhhhh....Moto...Motoyasu, Motoyasu~!"

"I'm here~"

Coming from Mikawa to congratulate the conquering of Mino, Matsudaira the tanuki Motoyasu answered Imagawa Yoshimoto's summons, and appeared in front of all of them in an instant.

"I... will definitely not stamp my seal on such a devious contract! Ahh but, such a hostage life that I've been living through, I can only play soccer in such a rundown place.....If I can go to Kyoto and live my life, it must definitely be more grand! Motoyasu! Now, hurry and think of a plan to restore the Imagawa clan!"

"Anyways, just stamp your seal first. We will talk about it once you've become the Shogun. Once then, there will be a way to nullify this contract~. Hehehehe."

"Haha, as expected from Motoyasu! You sure are cunning! Ohohohoho!"

And then, Imagawa Yoshimoto stamped her seal happily on this demonic contract that is almost like selling her soul away.

"Nicely done, Takechiyo." Nobuna sent a "Good Job" glance to Motoyasu.

"Though her pride is as high as Mount Fuji, she is unexpectedly easy to settle~" Takechiyo answered with a glance too.

"Juubei, in Kyoto your behavior and knowledge will definitely be useful. From now on, work hard under me as a retainer!"

"Roger. I'm honored."

Mitsuhide bowed with a solemn face, but Yoshiharu is still in a state of confusion.

"Lying to this stupid princess to stamp on this slave contract, these two sure are devious.... No, wait, the Imagawa Yoshimoto who should be dead in Okehazama becoming the Shogun!? This fellow is much harder to handle than Ashikage Yoshiaki! Hope that this won't become a mess....."

From that point in the past, the wheels of history might spin in a more different direction.

"Hanbei-chan once warned me..... If the time comes when my gaming knowledge can't help me, what can I do?"

At this moment, Nobuna mercilessly shouted.

"Damn Saru! Your blabla knowledge has times when they are wrong! This Juubei might just be more useful than you!"

"None...Of...Your...Business!"

Right now.

Mitsuhide sneaked a glance at Yoshiharu's face, and her white face suddenly flushed with a bout of red.

".....Hmmm. You must be that guy who said 'world' in Masanori Temple."

"Oh, I'm Sagara Yoshiharu. I'm in your care from now on."

"What. So you are the rumored Sagara Yoshiharu-sama!?"

Mitsuhide turned towards Yoshiharu immediately and gave a deep bow. "From now on, do take care of me too, Sagara-senpai."

Looking at this serious Mitsuhide, Yoshiharu can't help but feel embarrassed.

"Ah, nono. Such a thing like Senpai....! Our age isn't that different, don't be so reserved! Hahahaha!"

"No, Senpai is Senpai! Sagara-senpai's legendary 'Sunomata Ichiya Castle' is even famous in Kyoto! Senpai had been recognized as the No. 1 general in the country. Compared to Senpai, Juubei is still so far off, so please do guide me along from now on!"

The serious Mitsuhide blushed, and held onto Yoshiharu's hands tightly. After realizing that he is a young man, "Ahh. This.. This is so rude of me!" and released her hands, embarrassed.

"I'm really really sorry, do...doing such a ridiculous act!"

"Ara, so people have been looking at me like that. I will definitely be welcomed in Kyoto. This gives me a headache~"

"Yes, after going to the capital, Senpai will definitely be welcomed!"

The shy Juubei just from her holding hands, and this bright eyes of hers praising her senpai all makes her very cute.

"If it's this Juubei-chan who is so serious and pure, there shouldn't be a thing like a revolt happening." Yoshiharu is a bit relieved.

The second most famous event in the Sengoku SLG game "Oda Nobunaga no Yabou" is exactly the just finished "Battle at Okehazama".

But the most famous event, is definitely Oda Nobunaga getting killed by Akechi Mitsuhide's "Honnou-ji Incident".

"Oda Nobunaga, who is betrayed by his own retainer, Akechi Mitsuhide, is at the time when he was one step away from conquering the world, had committed seppuku in Kyoto's Honnou-ji temple in the midst of flames. His life of ambition is forcibly drawn a full stop.... Kinoshita Tokichirou, which is at that moment, Hashiba Hideyoshi, was at Chugouku^[29] battling with the Mori army. Shibata Katsuie and Niwa Nagahide had their own armies spread out to battle with enemy countries for the sake of the world as one. So in the end, no help arrived....."

Not mentioning Nobunaga who had transformed into a demon king^[30], the Nobuna in front of him, though sharp tongued but cute. To let her meet such a pitiful end when she is chasing her dream, Yoshiharu will not accept it even in death.

Though in Yoshiharu's heart, he had vaguely realized that he was here in this world to help Nobuna escape the "Honnou-ji Incident". But his own brain seems to be avoiding the topic of Honnou-ji until now.

This is because Nobuna who had almost obtained the world was swallowed in a sea of flames, and not even a hair was left over..... Such a pathetic way of departing from this world. Yoshiharu didn't even want to think about it.

And at that time, he isn't able to be by her side.

The help can't even reach in time.

Just slightly thinking about it, his own chest feels pain enough to rip him apart.

"And the fated samurai, Akechi Juubei Mitsude, has also shown herself. Now is the time to work towards avoiding the incident of Honnou-ji," Yoshiharu thinks.

".....But no matter how I see, this serious, diligent and pure Juubei-chan will never revolt. I might have over thought things."

Nobuna who is sitting high up, was staring at Yoshiharu and Mitsuhide who is looking at each other.

"I must say, what are you guys doing by being so lovely-dovey? Juubei, that Saru is being 'fed'^[31] personally by me. If you dare to 'feed' him yourself, I won't be merciful."

".....Roger."

Suddenly, the peaceful atmosphere between Nobuna and Mitsuhide became tensed, but Yoshiharu did not notice this at all.

Even Nobuna herself and Juubei Akechi did not notice it.

The fate awaiting the three of them, no one can predict.

"Let's start the feast! Tonight, no one is supposed to go home sober!"

In the middle of the reward ceremony, there was this Imagawa Yoshimoto matter which was solved after a long time. In an instant, it was already in the middle of the night.

Saitou Dousan who has totally differing opinions with Nobuna was sitting quietly at the top of Mount Kinka. At the start, he built this shed to sip his tea quietly, but it has been many years from his last visit. Dousan sits outside of the shed while looking down at the night view of the town below him.

Dousan spent half of his lifetime pursuing dreams like "Capturing Mino, going to the capital, and conquering the world...."

The dream that was once shattered, was fulfilled one by one by his goddaughter Nobuna.

The marriage with Asai Nagamasa was canceled too, and Nobuna's small dream as a girl was protected with much difficulty.

But to let Yoshitatsu escape from her, too naïve. Really, too naïve.

"Towards this brat who is too kind, there will definitely be troubles ahead of her. I'm afraid my mission here is almost done.... maybe I should find a faraway country and disappear."

If he himself is absent, then Nobuna will definitely decide to execute Yoshitatsu.

His own existence might be that child's weakness.

And, he started to cough mysteriously recently.

How many years he had lived through, Dousan can't help but think.

"You will rot if you stay in a place like this alone, geezer. Hurry and show your face at the feast."

"That's right! Everyone is waiting for the previous King of Mino to appear!"

Letting Nene ride on top of his shoulders, Yoshiharu sat down beside Dousan panting, having climbed the mountain.

"No need. I will just stay here."

"Geezer, don't tell me you are throwing a tantrum? That isn't good..."

"It's because I feel very uneasy over Nobuna-dono's naïvety." Dousan revealed his thoughts without hiding.

Sagara Yoshiharu. Though he is a guy with unknown origins, but other than Yoshiharu himself, there is no better alternative to entrust Nobuna to. Dousan understands this deeply.

"Geezer, Yoshitatsu might be your godson, but he is still someone you had raised like a son. Nobuna too will not kill Yoshitatsu herself. As someone who had chased away the country's lord but kept his son, you must have

been thinking of giving Mino back to Yoshitatsu after you have conquered the world, right? This should be another true dream in that heart of yours. So how can she bear to give the order for execution?"

"This is the exact thing that she is naïve in."

"It's a bit early to think that you are muddle-headed," Yoshiharu laughed.

Of course, Nobuna isn't that naïve to help Yoshitatsu without conditions. If you had said 'Don't kill Yoshitatsu', Nobuna might have executed Yoshitatsu without hesitation. Because if she did this, you won't have to bear the sin of killing your own son.

"I will never let that brat bear such a sin, that child knew about this too. From the start, Nobuna-dono had no wish to kill Yoshitatsu," Dousan thought.

"Dumb. I've had one leg in the coffin already and as "Viper Dousan", one or two more sins isn't such a big deal. So naïve."

"You are no longer Viper. Aren't you the same, geezer? If you really wish to kill Yoshitatsu, you wouldn't have left him alive till today. At the start when you named Nobuna as your successor, didn't you try your best to convince Yoshitatsu?"

".....Uh..... Really, like what you had said. What is this? The thought of finishing off Yoshitatsu silently had never crossed my mind. After entrusting my dream to Nobuna-dono, all I could think of is to ask for forgiveness from my own godson."

The Viper Saitou Dousan, how naïve he is.

"I wanna pee!" Nene starts to struggle on top of Yoshiharu. "Bear with it, please bear with it!" Yoshiharu calmed Nene while walking off.

"Place yourself in front of a mirror and see. After meeting with Nobuna at Masanori Temple, Geezer had totally become 'Buddha Dousan' already. Nobuna does not want to add to your sins anymore."

"I had banished my own master and stole Inabayama's fortress and the towns. Why even now..... Looks like Nobuna-dono does hate the sins I committed from the bottom of her heart."

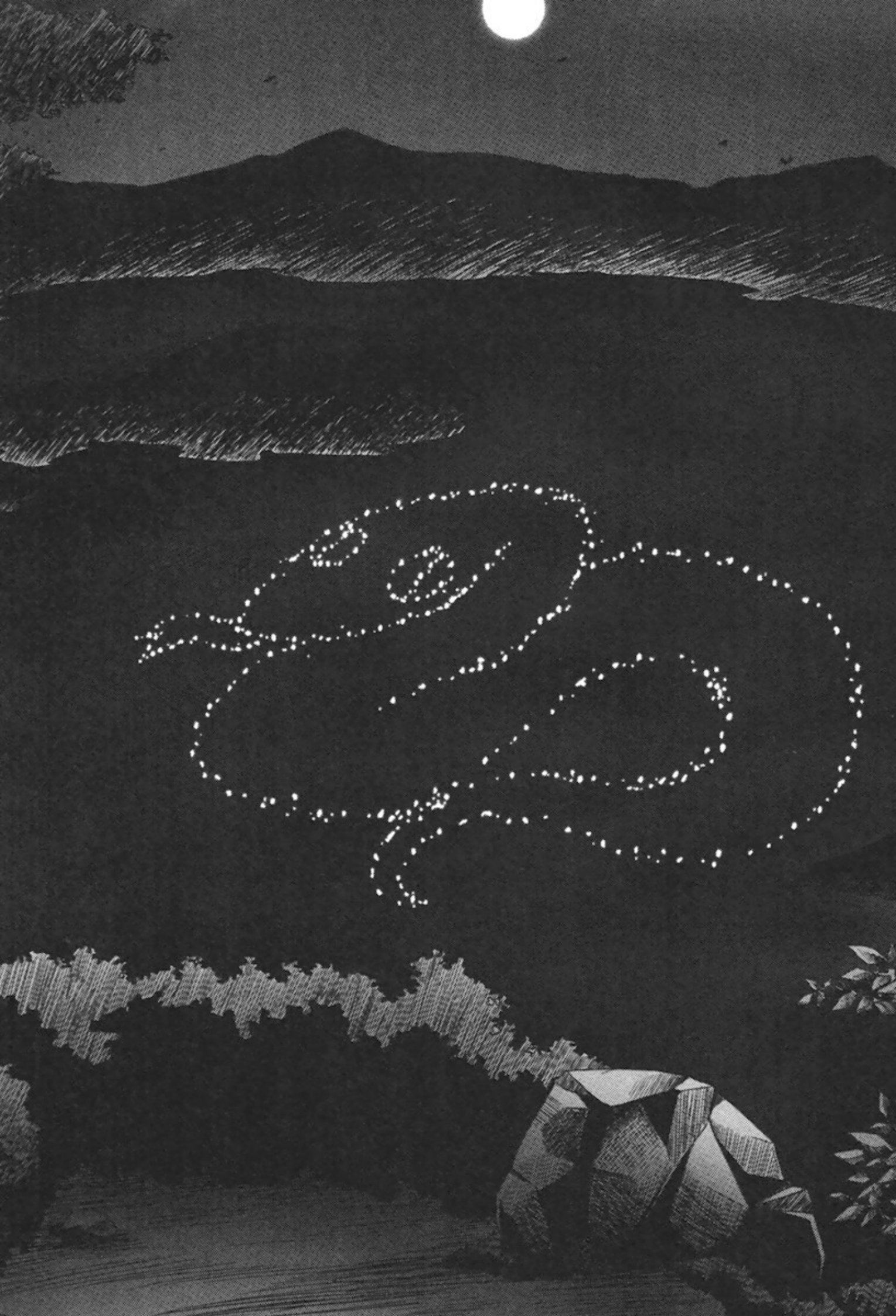
"Huh? What dumb stuff are you saying, geezer? Don't tell me you've really become muddle headed? This fortress and town's new name, read it out yourself."

Leaving these words, Yoshiharu brought Nene down from Mount Kinka, leaving Dousan by himself to gaze upon the scenery.

In the darkness of the night, uncountable lights from the town starts to appear.

At the start it was still a mess of lights, but slowly, it formed a picture.

This picture, is in the form of a snake.



Different from the scary Viper, it's like a funny and cute snake that appears in children folktales.

This should be Nobuna's order, asking the people in the town to light up and form the shape of the snake.

If he had not been at the top of Mount Kinka, he will not have seen such a spectacular sight.

Dousan almost choked on the feelings that was gushing from his heart, using a shaking voice, said the new name of the fortress and the town.

.....Godfather's Fortress, Godfather's Town^[32].

At this deserted shed in the mountains,

Dousan takes out the paper fan from his robes with trembling hands, and quietly covered his own face.

Because the bright moon in the sky is still quietly looking at himself.

Notes

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/>

References

1. ↑ Tsukkomi is the person correcting the boke (funny man) in manzais (japanese talk comedies). More information about Manzai @ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manzai>
2. ↑ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hikaru_Genji
3. ↑ Pond Noodles sound like gigolo in Japanese
4. ↑ Guru is the sound of spinning, probably referring to the ladle stirring the soup
5. ↑ Omiai ~ Marraige meeting, or rather, matchmaking
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miai>
6. ↑ Kanpaku is the Chief adviser to the Emperor
7. ↑ Mitoki Komon was also known as Tokugawa Mitsukuni, a diamiyo from the 16th century. Do note that he is the grandson of Tokugawa Ieyasu (or Matsudaira Takechiyo.)
8. ↑ Yano Kabuto is a Samurai helmet with two horns
9. ↑ Shikigami are basically familiars for Onmyojis
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shikigami>
10. ↑ In Japanese, faking sleep sound like kitsune, and kitsune means fox
11. ↑ Yoshiharu actually said lady in English here
12. ↑ The original Japanese raws writes おめんこ
13. ↑ In here, Yoshiharu said GET in English, and after that, changed back to Japanese
14. ↑ In the chinese raws, 美学 translates to artistic talent. But I feel that ideology fits better
15. ↑ The original Japanese raws are うものは一兎をも得ず. Which actually translates to, those who chase two rabbits will get neither
16. ↑ Tsuki translates to Moon. She is referring to the moon affectionately
17. ↑ There is no mistake on the translation. Even the Chinese raws are puzzled why is Goemon with Yoshiharu
18. ↑ Dearuka is a special phrase that Nobuna uses, it's being preserved as is for it's many meanings, a common translation includes 'I see'

19. ↑ He said "game" (gemu) in English
20. ↑ Yoshiharu used the word 脳みそが筋肉, meaning muscle head literally
21. ↑ Probably barking sounds from Inuchiyo
22. ↑ Torachiyo is a word play of Tora and Inuchiyo. Tora meaning tiger in Japanese
23. ↑ How can a year supply of Uiroumochi be mind blowing? Even the Chinese translators are questioning this. But taking into account Nobuna's stinginess, it might be so
24. ↑ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oiran>
25. ↑ China; Ming Dynasty
26. ↑ The original raws states お齒黒姫. In Ancient Japan, distinguished families had the habit to dye their teeth black, Nobuna is hinting that Yoshimoto's birthright and her intelligence is in contrast
27. ↑ かんれい, Muromachi bakufu's highest rank other than the Shogun himself
28. ↑ Himeko is most likely the emperor/empress of Japan, but since most sengoku era daimyos have been sex-changed, the emperor is now Himeko
29. ↑ This Chugouku isn't China. For more information, wiki Chugouku region
30. ↑ The demon king here should not be taken literally. The actual raw states, 第六天魔王, which literally translates to the sixth demon king of the sky. This entity was the head of demons disrupting religious people in Buddhism. The reason Oda Nobunaga was related to this demon king is due to a letter to Takeda Shingen that he sign off as 第六天魔王
31. ↑ There is no ' ' in the Chinese raws. But I feel like ' ' brings the feeling out more
32. ↑ 「ぎふのしろ、ぎふのまち」 Gifu had the same pronunciation as godfather

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